

★ ★ ★ GREEN TEAM: COMES ON STRONG ★ ★ ★

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

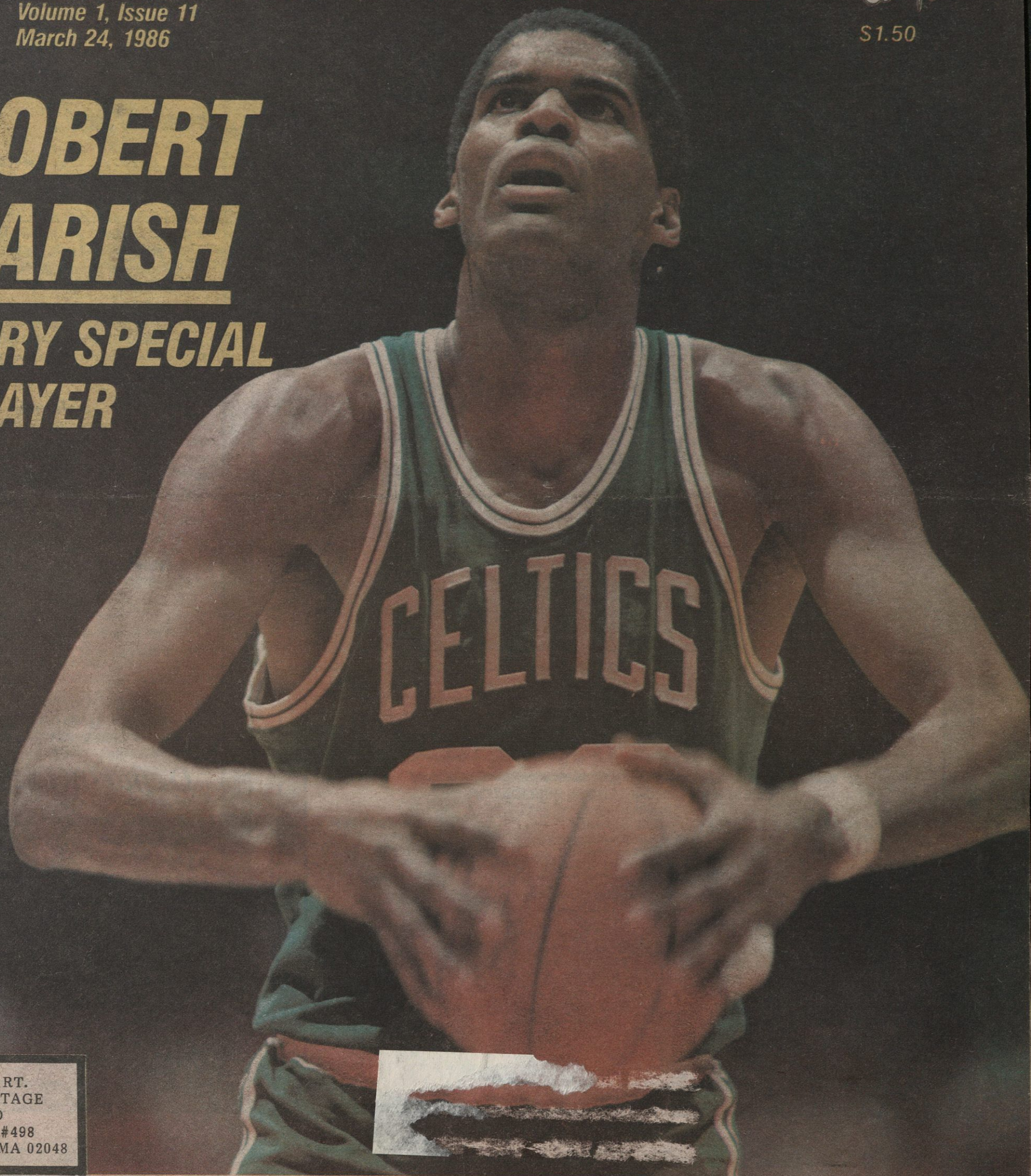
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★ ★ ★ ROOKIE REVIEW ★ ★ ★



Jeff Cohen orchestrated the full day of events.



Brannum made the most of his abilities.

Former Celtic Bob Brannum Honored at Brandeis University

Bob Brannum, who pioneered the "enforcer" role in basketball as a member of the Boston Celtics for four years from 1951 to 1955, was honored with an emotional and enlightening day of activities at Brandeis University on Saturday, March 1, 1986. Brannum has been the head coach of the Brandeis basketball team for the past 15 years and will be retiring from that position at the end of this season to assume other responsibilities at the University.

Brannum has been described by former teammate Bob Cousy as his "Guardian Angel", a reference to the protection Brannum provided for him on the court. As Red Auerbach emphasized at the testimonial dinner on Saturday night, though, his value transcended just that. "Bob Brannum was one of the earliest personifications of what later came to be known as Celtics' Pride," he said. "He made the very most of his abilities and placed all of his emphasis on his role in the team concept."

The full day of events honoring Brannum were the production of Jeff Cohen, formerly the Celtics' Assistant General Manager and the General Manager of the (then) Kansas City Kings, and now the Athletic Director at Brandeis, his alma mater. With assistance from Andy Jick, the Celtics Public Address announcer and another Brandeis alumnus, three events were staged.

On Saturday afternoon, an alumni game, featuring many of Brannum's former Brandeis players, was held. Later in the day, a thought-provoking seminar on "Ethics in Sports" riveted an audience of several hundred and spotlighted a number of experts on the subject. Among those on the panel at that colloquium were NBA Commissioner David Stern, Celtics General Manager Jan Volk, Bob Woolf, CBS executive Len DeLuca, former Celtic Tom Sanders, and Glenn Wong, a professor of Sports Law at the University of Massachusetts.

The culmination of the day's events was the testimonial dinner. Surrounded by Celtics past and present, former teammates and former players coached by him, Bob Brannum stories abounded. At the root of each of them, though, was the sense of love and affection held for this massive man by all whose lives have touched his. For despite his reputation as an "enforcer" while player, everyone who has known Bob Brannum is proud to have known such a kind, decent and - yes - gentle man.

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Cover...

Robert Parish, it is said, plays in the shadows of the "Great Centers" however, in Boston he is appreciated for what he is... a very special player and person.

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EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: Red, could you explain to me why the term "team penalty situation" (1 and 1) in the NBA is different from all the other leagues? Why do the pros get two automatic shots at the foul line?

Tony Reis,
Taunton, Mass.

RED'S ANSWER: Years ago, the pros, who are quick to react to situations, would foul their opponent's weak player and force him into a one and one. As it is, that's still done to a certain extent now. But at that time, there was such a thing as a one-shot foul, and it made good sense to foul someone and give them just one shot until you were in the penalty situation. You may remember that Wilt Chamberlain was such a poor free throw shooter that other teams would even gamble on fouling him before the ball was even thrown in and letting him have the two shots. So, the NBA decided to just make it a flat-out two shots; that allows the continuous flow of the game to be uninterrupted. The league has also eliminated the two-to-make-one and three-for-two situations that used to exist, partly because players are just statistically better free throw shooters now.

QUESTION: Your team should have a pretty high draft pick coming. What position are you looking to strengthen? Also, if you could have any of the players available, who would you take?

Joe White,
Denver, Colorado

RED'S ANSWER: First of all, you don't want to publish in a magazine, even our magazine, an article telling people who we're going to draft. That's not the thing to do. We're looking for the best athlete available, and we don't really care what position he plays. We'll take the best player we can get, whether he's a guard, forward or center.

QUESTION: You have been with the Celtics for many years and you have seen many great teams. Which team would you pick as being the greatest Celtics team ever?

Matthew Thompson,
St. Albans, W. Va.

RED'S ANSWER: That's hard to do because the level of competition is different. You see, the greatest team can be categorized either as the greatest team over a period of a season or the greatest team in a series of playoff games. It's very

Ask Red Auerbach

difficult to pick any team to beat the team of Russell, Heinsohn, Havlicek, the Jones boys, Cousy and Sharman, because over a series of games, I think they could have probably beaten anybody. But over a whole season, the teams today are a lot bigger and more powerful, and deeper all the way down to the 12th players. Years ago, you had one center and a backup; today, teams have converted centers at the power forward position and three centers on top of that. You have 6-9 guards like Magic Johnson. The game is just a lot different.

QUESTION: Will the celebrated cherished parquet floor travel should the Celtics switch arenas?

Thomas Wilson,
Los Angeles, Calif.

RED'S ANSWER: I sure hope so. I think that's part of our tradition. I wouldn't want to bring all the dead spots with us. I would hope that a new arena would incorporate this parquet floor or one very much like it.

QUESTION: How can my son become a Celtics ballboy?

Derrick Henderson
Boston, MA

RED'S ANSWER: Well, you can write a letter in to our office. The selection of ballboys is handled by our trainer, Ray Melchiorre, and our equipment manager, Wayne LeBeaux. Right now, we get our ballboys from the high school level. Years ago, we used young kids as ballboys, but in recent years, we've gone with bigger and older kids and it seems to be working better for us. Younger kids are so awed by the presence of the players that they forget to keep their minds on their responsibilities.

QUESTION: What transitions, in your opinion, do college players have to make between NCAA basketball and the NBA?

Darren Weiner,
Newton, MA

RED'S ANSWER: That's a good question. I think the biggest transition is one of dedication toward team play. I know they have that in college; however, the biggest transition, I believe, is the ability to play in the pros within the concept of team defense. In the pros, you're not playing a zone. Defense requires a lot of sacrifice, dedication and concentration. In college, they play a lot of zones, and the players rest on defense. In the pros, it's just the opposite. If you're tired, you rest on offense; you never rest on defense.

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THE CELTICS HAVE A NEW NUMBER

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Green Team Spearheads Celtics Drive For Title

by Bob Schron

Coach K.C. Jones—he is of the school of relaxed style of coaching—was asked some time back about the role of the bench. “The role”, he stated, “is simply to go out there and play conservatively. Reserves who replace starting players must be supportive, execute the offense, not make mistakes, and at least maintain an even score on the scoreboard.”

The Boston Celtics' now-famous Green Team emerged during the past two months of the season to propel the Celts to the best record in the NBA. Since the end of December, a specific time-marker, Bill Walton, Scott Wedman, Jerry Sichting, Rick Carlisle, Greg Kite, David Thirdkill, and Sam Vincent have increased their playing time from approximately 19% of the total minutes to 30%.

Assistant Coach Jimmy Rodgers commented, “From day one, the Green Team has been a positive influence in practice because they have provided a competitive situation for the starters. Recently they have come into their own as a unit, and in combination with the starters.”

Pointing out that the Green Team's image has been magnified after Kevin McHale was injured, Rodgers clarified the problems the “green” has posed to the opposition. “In the second LA game, as big a regular season game as possible, their output was vital. Walton, Carlisle, Sichting, Kite.

“They give opponents a lot to think about. (Not only thinking how to stop the starters.) But now they have to think: How do you stop Walton? How about Sichting? Carlisle?”

“They're becoming so effective they are a team within a team. They play a certain type of game, dependent on terrific ball movement, hitting shots from spots, and tenacious defense.”

The initial surge for the Celtics occurred after the infamous Christmas Day defeat in New York, a loss which saw starters Bird and McHale play 50 minutes, Johnson, 46, Parish, 45, and Ainge 42 minutes each. Yet this was the final scene of Coach Jones' dissatisfaction with the bench. Two days before the game against the Knicks, Jones had met with the Green Team and explained he was making some decisions about a set substitution pattern. This had been a source of mild unrest among the bench-players.

He also told the players they had to play a more settled game themselves; they had to take better care of the ball and concentrate more fully



How do you stop Walton?

on the defensive end. Ironically, the Green Team played effectively in that much-discussed Christmas defeat; Jones, perhaps too-recently burned by recent games (the Celtics had lost 4 of 6), had removed Wedman, Sichting, and Walton after six 2nd quarter minutes. First, the move appeared sound as the starters ran off to the 25-point lead. But as Jan Volk pointed out to Glenn Ordway recently, the starters were not playing well. When the Knicks rallied, the C's, burned out, folded.

The chronology of the team's mid-season march to the top of the league features two related events; Larry Bird is again the best all-around player who ever played, and the bench is a prepared, active, swarming group of outstanding supportive players.

Jones' original statement, i.e., the bench shouldn't be concerned about personal statistics, belongs

perhaps as a credo for the Celtics Green Team. Quips Greg Kite, “I think maybe we should have our own franchise, the Brookline Bombers.” The Bombers, indeed; yet, undeniably, the bench includes NBA players of the humblest of backgrounds. Sichting was cut from his first camp by the Warriors in 1979 and was out of basketball for a year. Carlisle was a 3rd-round choice who fought daily for a spot on the roster. Bill Walton's injured past is as well-known as his perfection-based play when he led the Trail Blazers to the 1976-77 championship.

The picture becomes even clearer remembering that Wedman played 2 and 3-minute appearances in the Celtics most recent (1984) championship season; that Kite's best scoring average in college was 8.3 ppg and David Thirdkill was back home in St. Louis earlier this season working out in his old high school preparing to perform for the Bay State Bombardiers in the CBA.

The final interesting ingredient of the Green Team is the present twelfth man—1st-round draft choice Sam Vincent. Injured in mid-January when he was finally working out the rust in his confident, penetrating-based game, rookie Vincent, since returning, has not been able to regain a spot in the rotation. The youngster is agonizing, wanting to play. But for now his role is to work hard in practice and remain patient.

Injuries (McHale; Johnson and Ainge, briefly) have forced Jones to employ several combinations of starters and bench players. Wedman started for McHale, for example, and averaged 14.9 ppg and 4.8 rpg in 32.5 average minutes. He comments that “a player has to be prepared, physically and mentally coming off the bench. The difference for me

(when starting) is I just blend into the flow. When I play off the bench, I usually replace Larry Bird, who's primarily a shooter. Off the bench I look for my shot more.”

Walton and Sichting have been parallel stars in the frontcourt and at the guard position. “When Bill was in Los Angeles and he felt a twinge, he didn't play,” comments the Globe's Bob Ryan. “In Boston, he shrugs it off and says, ‘let's play ball.’” Walton is again at the top of his game, with a team and contributing to a team which understands the game. Sichting is bred for quickness, has shot .579 in the past two months, and has provided vitally needed guard play as Ainge struggled after an ankle injury.

Carlisle, Kite, and Thirdkill are contributing meaningfully within the system. Carlisle carried the team in crunch time against the Lakers; Kite, in a play which didn't show in the statistics, but was critical, took Magic Johnson on in a shoving match in the teams' second game. But Kite has played effectively, too, as Jones is quick to tell. Against the Warriors in Oakland, Kite replaced the injured Wedman and stopped Larry Smith, the NBA's 2nd-leading offensive rebounder. Thirdkill is a swarming player, offensively and defensively, one who has helped the team to wins over the Sixers and the Lakers. He observes, “The Green Team is jelling as a unit. Everybody's playing within a role and within the concept of the game when we're out there.”

The final contribution of the Green Team, is, naturally, that they are providing relaxed playing time for Parish (Walton), Johnson (Sichting and Carlisle), and Larry Bird. The superstars are able to rely on the Green Team for critical relief and the entire Celtics Team has become an integrated unit, able to sustain their pressure defense and passing game for 48 minutes.



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An Early Look at the NBA Playoffs

What would the NBA playoff picture look like if the proverbial second season started right now?

The league playoff format works thusly: Top finishers in each division in both conferences would obviously secure berths, with the best record in the conference having home-court edge up until the finals (which would be maintained if the given club had the best record in the entire league).

After that is when the scramble begins. The next six best records in each conference, regardless of which division the team is in, would qualify for the playoffs. So it's conceivable, for example, that five Midwest Divisions teams could make the playoffs, and just one from the Pacific.

The team with the conference's best record would play the one with the worst, second would face seventh, third would meet sixth, and so on. All opening round clashes are the best three out of five.

As it stands now in the Eastern Conference, the Celtics have the best record in the conference and all of basketball, so they'd have the home hardwood edge should they reach the championship round. But the Milwaukee Bucks, piloted by former Celtics Don Nelson, aren't too far behind from the C's and have to be taken seriously. Isn't it amazing how Nelson gets these guys to over-achieve every year?

Philadelphia, which got off on the wrong foot this season, has been revitalized in recent months, thanks to the guaranteed play of sophomore forward Charles Barkley. That Philly has been doing it without injured guard Andrew Toney makes their play even more noteworthy.

Atlanta and Detroit of the Central Division, are fighting for the number-four slot. The Hawks are playing in a manner that could make Mike Fratello Coach of the Year material, while the Pistons are starting to wake up.

The New Jersey Nets, who'll have to make do without the recently banished Micheal Ray Richardson, ought to wind up in the sixth spot and the Washington Bullets are currently running seventh. The Cleveland Cavaliers, a major disappointment this season, would be the final playoff contestant in the East. The Chicago Bulls, Indiana Pacers and New York Knicks, all of whom have been nothing short of awful this year, could sneak in there if they get hot, or if the Cavs or Bullets mess up in the closing weeks of the year.

In the Western Conference, the LA Lakers would be top seed, followed by the Portland Trail Blazers and the entire Midwest Conference! The Lakers are the only team in the Pacific playing better than .500 roundball.



Nellie is amazing.

A closer look at the series which would take place if the season ended right at this moment:

EASTERN CONFERENCE

1. Boston vs. Cleveland- The Celtics knocked off the Cavaliers in four games last year, but Cleveland wasn't easy to shake. Boston is a much stronger team with the addition of Bill Walton and Jerry Sichting, while Cleveland hasn't lived up to its promise. The way the Celtics have been playing, they probably would have little trouble with the Cavs.

Of course, a healthy Kevin McHale is paramount if the Celtics are to win another NBA title.

2. Philadelphia vs. Washington- The grumbling about Matt Guokas alleged lack of coaching ability has died down to next-to-nothing, now that the 76ers are playing solid basketball. Much of that is due to the emergence of 6-6, 285-pound forward Charles Barkley, the NBA's version of the Refrigerator.

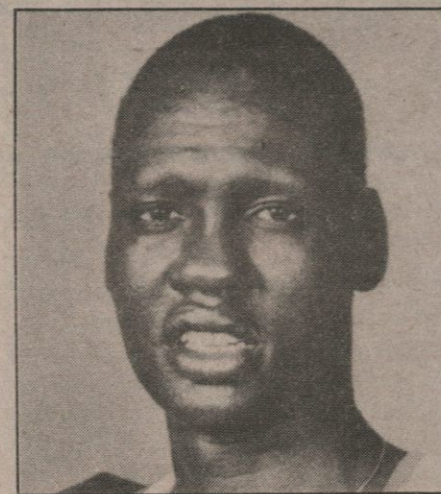
“There has never been a player his size who combined overwhelming strength with such nimbleness,” Sixer General Manager Pat Williams said. That blend of qualities -- brute strength and nimble feet -- I don't think we've ever seen that in the league before.

Said Julius Erving: “I think Charles has shown the league that he can be as good as any player on any given night.”

The Bullets have a player-- 7-7 center Manute Bol -- who is taller and skinnier than anyone in the league on any night. Bol has shown the ability to block shots with abandon -- 244 in his first 49 games-- but hasn't done much else.

Philly should have a “Bol” with Washington and handle the Bullets with no problem.

3. Milwaukee vs. New Jersey- The Bucks continue to - squeeze more out of their talent than anyone else in the league, while the Nets are lukewarm. And no doubt Richardson's absence will have a unnerving affect on the team.



Manute needs offense.

4. Detroit vs. Atlanta- The Pistons and Hawks are running neck-and-neck in the Central, and whoever winds up with the fourth seed will have the home court edge. That could be pivotal in a short series. Detroit, which had a ten game winning streak, is receiving great play from All-Star MVP Isiah Thomas, forward Kelly Tripucka and center Bill Laimbeer, a Boston native. The Hawks boast three seven-footers (Kevin Willis, Tree Rollins and Jon Koncak) and a Spud (Webb). This could be a team to watch in the future.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

1. LA Lakers vs. Sacramento- The Kings have been playing well of late and have a ravenous sellout at every home game, but they'd be no match for the defending World Champions. Save a pair of defeats at the hands of the Celtics, the Lakers have been merely toying with opponents this year.

2. Houston vs. Portland- It looks none-too-good for the Blazers. They had an 11-game losing streak and will be without center Sam Bowie, who will have to undergo surgery on his foot. Meanwhile, the Rockets are trying to keep Denver out of first place in the Midwest.

But the way the Blazers are going, they could very well slide right out of the playoff picture.

3. Denver vs. Phoenix- The Suns are better off now that Walter Davis has returned to action, but the Nuggets are one of the NBA's strongest teams.

4. San Antonio vs. Utah- Even though the Jazz have yet to show it this season, they are a potentially-better team than the mediocre Spurs. Darrell Griffith won't play at all this year, but Utah still has supreme scorer Adrian Dantley and shot blocking specialist Mark Eaton.



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Innerview

Paul Westphal

During his heyday, there weren't too many players in the NBA who could generate offense with the alacrity of Paul Westphal.

Equally proficient with either hand and a deft outside shooter, Westphal was a defensive player's nightmare. Cover him too closely and he'd get past you. Give him the outside shot and he'd stick it almost every time.

Although Westphal really made his mark in the NBA with the Phoenix Suns—he was named to the All-Star team four times while wearing that club's color—his career started in Boston. The Celtics made him their first-round pick in 1972, out of USC.

Westphal rode the bench that rookie campaign, but came on the following year to become a key reserve in the Celtics' 1973-74 season.

The Torrance, Calif. native was traded to the Suns for Charlie Scott after the '75-76 season, then moved on to Seattle in '80-81 in a trade which saw current Celtic Dennis Johnson move to Arizona.

Westphal had stops with the New York Knicks and with the Suns again before retiring at the end of the 1983-84 campaign. Westphal had his finest NBA season in '77-78, averaging 25.2 and 5.4 assists, while shooting .516 from the floor.

The ex-Celtic is living in Paradise Valley, Ariz., a suburb of Phoenix and is a basketball coach at Southwestern College in Phoenix. Southwestern is a small, Christian College of about 200 students.

Celtics Pride recently had a chance to talk with the 35-year-old Westphal...

CELTICS PRIDE: How did you wind up at Southwestern College?

WESTPHAL: I've always planned on being a coach. My coaching career was interrupted by 12 years in the NBA. If I'd never played an NBA game I still would've been a coach.

CELTICS PRIDE: How is the first year going?

WESTPHAL: Great. The team was 3-20 last year, and we've won 18 of our first 25 games this season. It's been a big turnaround—a lot of fun. I attribute that to great coaching and new players. I was kidding about the coaching.

CELTICS PRIDE: Have the players taken to you well, knowing that you're a former NBA star?

WESTPHAL: You'd have to ask them. I feel like it's been real positive. They've been good to work with and receptive to anything I've tried to do. Being a former player is an advantage—they're old enough to know. I played—but only until you open your mouth. If what you say doesn't make sense, it doesn't matter whether you were a player or not.

CELTICS PRIDE: What, if any, influence does having played for the Celtics have on your coaching?

WESTPHAL: Playing for the Celtics

was important in crystallizing my knowledge of basketball. The lens I look through is Red Auerbach's philosophies. There's no way to summarize the Celtics influence in one or two words, but I try not to do anything stupid.

You'd be surprised how many organizations do things just because they've always been done that way. Not to over-simplify the Celtics philosophy, but basically, it's if it works, keep doing it.

CELTICS PRIDE: How would you appraise your three years in Boston?

WESTPHAL: I was a victim of the Celtics philosophy that young guys sit and work their way in gradually. That was fine—that's the way they've done things. It was a good experience. It was a fantastic group of guys to be teammates with and learn from.

I feel I made good contribution to one championship team and to a good season my last year there. I did progress in Boston. It's the best team to learn from and the best organization I've ever played for. After playing 12 years, I had my most visible success in Phoenix, but I'd have to say I identify with the Celtics the most.

CELTICS PRIDE: How did you feel when the Celtics drafted you?

WESTPHAL: I was overjoyed. It was a chance for me to get to play for a team on the upswing. I'd always been a basketball fan, and the fact I could play for Auerbach, Havlicek and all those guys was thrilling. I wasn't disappointed playing there.

CELTICS PRIDE: You were traded to Phoenix for Charlie Scott after your third season. Wasn't that a good move, because it allowed you to flourish with another team?

WESTPHAL: The same thing would've happened in Boston in time. Don Chaney had jumped to the ABA and I would've been a starter that year.

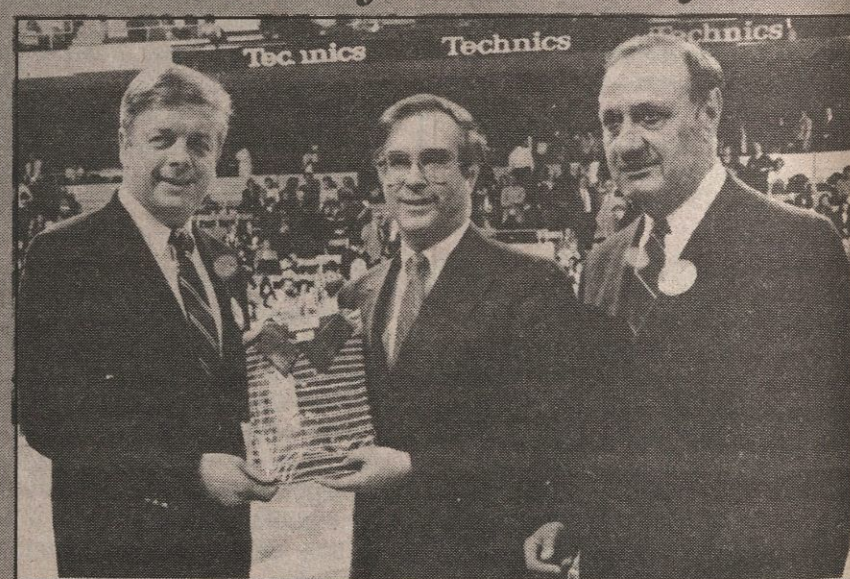
In fact, I might've had a longer career had I stayed in Boston.

CELTICS PRIDE: What about your future? Are you looking toward a college coaching career or the NBA?

WESTPHAL: Wherever it leads. I don't see myself as one of these nomadic coaches who spends two years in one place and two years in another. I moved enough when I was a player. I don't want to go through with that again—where you pack up your bags and move every couple of years. I might move one, maybe two more times.

The best chances for longevity in coaching are in college. You don't see too many coaches in the NBA staying in one place for a long time.

State of Maine Day



Sunday, March 2nd was State of Maine Day at the Boston Celtics game against the Detroit Pistons. Among the 250 visitors from Maine to the Boston Garden, who traveled down for the game, was the State's Governor, Joseph Brennan. Joining Brennan was the President of the Maine Sports Hall of Fame, Dan Gacetta, who arranged to bring with him a number of Maine products to present to the Celtics' players, coaches and front office. Pictured above presenting a Hathaway shirt to Celtics' General Manager Jan Volk are Gov. Brennan and Mr. Gacetta.

Kevin McHale Learned a New Role for Celtics

Celtics Diary

The emergence of Kevin McHale as one of the premier players in the NBA this season was the story of the Celtics throughout the team's first half schedule. Averaging 22.2 ppg on .552 shooting, and gathering over eight rebounds a game, McHale easily was an All-Star. It was his second selection in the past three years. This season he was a bonafide MVP candidate. To foes, his game is notorious: tall, quick jumping skill, agile and tricky and powerful post game. He augments this talent offensively with great instinctive shot-blocking ability.

But something happened. In mid-January, McHale injured his Achilles tendon. He attempted to shrug it off, but the injury at first stiffened, and worsened. McHale sat out several games before the All-Star Game, and then played in it, proud of his place on the squad.

But the injury worsened further, enforcing idleness for the player who, as he says, "loves to play."

Kevin McHale recorded some impressions of the most unusual road trip of his pro career. Seven DNPs.

Dallas. February 9. The East won the All-Star Game this afternoon, and it was exciting—in fact, the whole weekend turned out to be rewarding. My wife, Lynne, was with me and we vacationed for the four days. It was the first time we had been able to spend some time alone together since our son Michael was born last February 23rd.

I played pretty well out there and was out there in the 4th quarter when we pulled the game out. I was injured for much of the past week back home but I was determined to play. The leg felt good, I told K.C., and we went with it.

Sacramento. February 11th. A little scary, I admit. After feeling fine all day yesterday after the All-Star Game, I ran through a hard practice with our team last night; our first workout since the All-Star break. We try to practice strenuously after a break—the guys are rusty, our games tend to be off. We had the 13-game winning streak and that probably played a part, too.

But, frankly, today the leg began hurting again. I haven't missed this amount of time since I broke my leg in my sophomore year in Minnesota. My difficulty has been wanting to come back too soon. It's a wait-and-see situation right now.

Portland. February 14. Most of my time has been spent watching the team play from a reserved seat on the bench. I tease Rick Carlisle and Sam Vincent: they have the best seat in the house. But mine's better right now: all I have to do is come to the



Had reserved seat on bench.

games and not worry about the stress of playing the games.

Los Angeles. February 16. The trip is becoming a bit desultory. The routine is black humor; a well-paid athlete whose chief function is helping Ray Melchiorre with pads, shooting some free throws, and playing the role of staying off the Achilles tendon.

My appreciation of our team has grown, though. Larry Bird is playing incredibly, carrying us. And it has been an education because our offense has changed. We are running a lot more plays to set up Scotty (Wedman) from the outside. We defeated the Lakers, today, and the team is achieving an excellent rhythm. It's helping our defense and rebounding; better concentration on defense, and added precision off the boards.

Phoenix. February 17. I don't think I'll play the remainder of the trip; My routine has been practice, icing, and using the Galvanic stimulator. K.C. and I have determined that the problem comes when I reach 95% health. Then I'll want to go and test the tendon immediately and it's negating all the time I spend during the previous week getting the leg well. So, even though I believe I could play now, we agree that we should go past that "95% threshold" and attempt to rebuild the strength completely.

Denver. February 20. We're pretty pleased with the trip. We lost tonight to Denver, but we did play very well earlier in the trip. Tonight, we didn't have enough players; Walton had a sprained ankle, Wedman was just coming back from a back injury, and we're dog-tired. Seven games is tough to conquer in the span of ten days. Even when you're essentially walking through airports!

Actually the walking has kept the leg loose. It is strange and uneasy being an injured player. I'll hope to be back out there soon; I'm also hoping that the rest will come in to productive use later in the season. I'll have



Kevin is grateful to be back.

had my summer vacation in January and February.

I was planning to have dinner with my agent in Oakland, but I cancelled that, too. Just icing, three and four times a day.

Boston. February 22. I worked out in three-on-three with Greg Kite, Sam Vincent, Danny Ainge, David Thirdkill, and Rick Carlisle. It felt OK—the best it's been in a while. I'm glad these guys continue after practice. We

wanted to go slow, since it was evaluated earlier as being a partial tear of the Achilles tendon. You think everything's easy when you're an athlete. Until you get hurt. Then the simplest function is worrisome.

New York. February 25. I finally played—the first time since the All-Star game. It was stiff some, but I think mostly from being out of actual game action. The critical period all along has been the day after; I'm hoping the leg will feel free and easy tomorrow. We won; the feeling for me was sort of trying to catch up all night, trying to catch my wind.

Boston. February 27. Last night I played 17 minutes, and I got myself back in the flow. I was able to score my jump hook over David Greenwood of the Spurs, was able to at least grasp a bit of my conditioning. But I've always been able to maintain some of that; I play basketball all the time and conditioning really isn't too much difficulty.

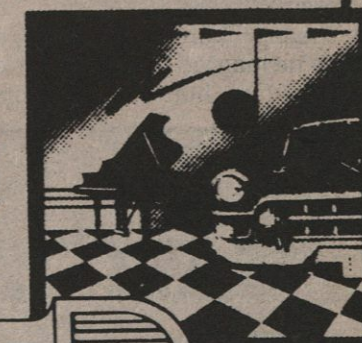
And I was extremely grateful. Today I came to practice and the leg felt loose. I worked out and it was an unexpected pleasure: a normal day at practice.

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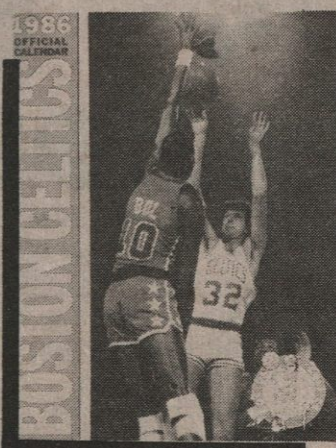
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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Robert Parish: The Player, The Man

Think of ways to describe the Center of the Boston Celtics, Robert L. Parish. Shooter. Rebounder. Shot-Blocker and the Ability to Run the Floor. Six-Time All-Star. Intimidating. Versatile. Consistent. and Over-shadowed.

Outside the arena, Parish is the proud husband of Nancy Parish and father to Jason Parish (3). The family lives in a magnificent home in Weston, specially designed for the Parishes by Nancy Parish's father. Parish is entering the final stages of his contract with the Celtics. He is very interested in investing in real estate in the Black Community in Boston with partner Tony Harris of Boston. He is a professional near the peak of his career, successful in life, at peace with himself.

There remains a mystery about the man and the player. Listen to former teammate Ray Williams: "I think it's about time Robert received his just due. Robert works hard day in and day out; it's just tough for a player who has always played in the shadow of Kareem (Abdul-Jabbar), Moses (Malone), and Bill Walton.

"Don't misunderstand --- Bill Walton is playing great. But now Bill is the new focus of interest and again, Robert is forgotten."

An insight into what conceals the talents of Parish from public knowledge.

What about the man who consistently---since coming to Boston he has played in 454 of a possible 465 games in 5+ seasons---comes to play at the Boston Garden each night, dons the magic garb of the Boston Celtics? Who is he? Parish told Bob Ryan in *The Boston Globe* in 1982, "I'm a private person, a very private person. I guess 'loner' is the word. I'm home a lot. I don't go out much, only if I have something to do. You won't see me out just hanging around socializing."

These words were spoken before he married the ebullient Nancy (a singer) but they provided



Robert works hard day in and day out.

preliminary insight. Robert Parish is a powerful, proud, workmanlike and skillful player. This is a player who thrives in the warfare underneath the NBA backboards, where muscular and agile athletes vie. He carries 235 pounds on a full 7-foot frame, strong and sturdy enough to intimidate. But there is an undeniable grace and

discipline about him. Cotton Fitzsimmons, Coach of the San Antonio Spurs, tried to recruit Parish out of Shreveport, Louisiana when Fitzsimmons was coaching Kansas State. He brought Parish to a summer camp when Parish was a junior.

"I'll never forget. Parish was 6-10 at the time but still young. He went up for a rebound and his back was turned so he couldn't see a youngster underneath him, an actual inch away. Well, Robert came down, stopped short on a dime, and in one motion, dribbled behind his back and went around him. It was one of the best athletic moves I've seen a young player make."

Parish, when reminded of this, shakes his head in acknowledgement. He is wary of interviews, except for perfunctory post-game sessions. He has been the target of controversy in the past and has refused any inquiries for most of the past two playoffs.

One of the exciting aspects of this remarkable season for the Celtics, according to Parish, is the play of Bill Walton. His eyes light up: "Bill Walton is a great center---he's really a starter, coming in off the bench.

"So my minutes are down, I'm well-rested, I don't have to pace myself anymore." Parish was an exhausted man during the finals last season admitting that he didn't recover physically until mid-July.

"I am fresher, now," he says seriously. "My love for the game never stopped (although I was tired last year). But now this year, we not only have Bill, we have 5-6-7 people who can play. Our bench has made the game interesting for all of us because we can do so many things. The perfect example is Scott Wedman; look what he did when Kevin (McHale) was out.

"And I always knew Bill could play, I just wasn't sure about his health. And he's in great shape---his best since Portland in the late seventies."

A lasting image of Robert Parish as the Center of the Celtics will be the noble and determined countenance as he hustles the floor continuously. If he's not out in the open territory, he's struggling for the ball in the rebounding action. "Both boards," asserts teammate Rick Carlisle. "The thing which makes our team so effective is the versatility of Parish; our big guys go after the ball on the boards and Robert is always hustling. On the boards. End to end."

According to Parish, the instinct to run the floor was taught him by Coleman Kidd, his coach in junior high in Shreveport. "I didn't appreciate it then, but now I do. His theory was that if guards and forwards can run the floor, so should centers."

Parish analyzed other features of his game. On blocking shots: "The key is timing, jumping ability, and height. Opponents want to go directly at a shot-blocker and want to keep him working. A shot-blocker is best when he's standing and waiting. On shooting: "It's talent and a lot of practice. I practiced my shot repeatedly, from spots on the floor, turnarounds. I don't practice shooting as much now; I'm a firm believer in the adage, 'if it isn't broken, don't fix it!' On rebounding: It develops with time. It took me time, and a player has to have the desire and be willing to punish and endure punishment. Also position. But you have to want the ball more than the next player."

Exterior rewards, like scoring plenty of points, are not a high priority because, says Parish, "When basketball is played right, it's art, it's entertainment. When the ball is moving properly and everybody's involved, it's special. Especially at this (professional) level. Although it is at best imprecise to equalize playing personality with a man's character, it

is useful to describe some of Parish's perspectives of motivation. This is a self-contained man who indeed places the team goal above personal recognition.

He faced discrimination in the south growing up as the oldest son of four. His father, a welder, is aging but "will never retire. They would have to put him away to keep him from (going to work every day)." Parish dealt with discrimination in varying ways; "I would rebel, sometimes. Other times I'd avoid the problems, keep out of confrontations." His parents' advice crystallized into two dictums: "Treat someone like you want to be treated." And, "Treat someone as nice as they treat you."

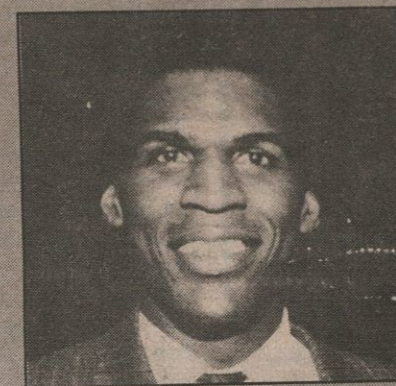
Parish attended Centenary College in Shreveport and remained there despite the school's NCAA probation (1974-76). He was, says former teammate Cedric Maxwell, the best center in the country, but received little publicity. He seemed to be an ideal candidate for hardship,

but decided to stay in school for four years. "I think it was a critical turning point in my life," Parish now says. "I was drafted every year (by the ABA) but I stayed, and I grew up, became more mature, accepted responsibility, learned to take care of business at age 19-20."

He played four fitful seasons with the Warriors, taken as the 8th player in the whole draft for the 1977 season. He learned the post position better from Joe Roberts, but the team was aimless, and in the end, the Warriors were alternately showcasing and hiding Parish. The situation in Boston is day compared to the Oakland night. He has been an All-Star every year in addition to being a focal point of two titles.

Parish speculatively will remain in Boston, likely signing a final multi-year pack within the next year. It would be a happy story; the man with the nickname of Chief actually is a main motivator in the heart of the Celtics team.

Self-Portrait



Robert Parish

BIRTHPLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH: Shreveport, Louisiana, August 30, 1953

OCCUPATION: Center, Power-Forward, Boston Celtics

FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER: Jack Nicholson in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"

FAVORITE ALL TIME TV SHOW: Gunsmoke

IF I WERE REINCARNATED, I'D BE A: Millionaire

FAVORITE ANIMAL IN THE ZOO: Tiger

FAVORITE FOOD: Fish

FAVORITE BOOKS: Stories by Stephen King

FAVORITE MOVIE: Killing Fields

FAVORITE CURRENT TV SHOW: Miami Vice

FAVORITE NBA CITY (outside Boston): Atlanta

FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Seasons in the Bostonian Hotel

FOUR GUESTS AT MY FANTASY DINNER PARTY: My wife, my wife's mother, my father, and my son

FAVORITE COMEDIAN: Rodney Dangerfield and Richard Pryor

FAVORITE BOARD GAME: Backgammon

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ANOTHER PROFESSION I'D BE A: Investor and Manager of Real Estate

HIGH SCHOOL NICKNAME: Slim

FAVORITE DRINK: Vodka Tonic

OLDEST PIECE OF CLOTHING: Coat

I'D SPEND MY LAST \$10 ON: My family

IF I COULD CHANGE PLACES WITH AN ACTOR, I'D PICK: Jack

Nicholson; he knows how to enjoy life.

FAVORITE BROADWAY MUSICAL: King and I

MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT: Slipping and falling before a formal affair and ripping my tuxedo

I WISH I KNEW HOW TO: Be a better person



A Banner Year For Rookies?

A team-by-team capsule summary of how the NBA's rookies are faring this season....

BOSTON CELTICS- Michigan State guard Sam Vincent was hailed as the "steal of the draft" by some NBA observers, but the first-round pick has been unable to crack the Celtics' backcourt rotation. However, Vincent is undoubtedly picking up valuable experience on the practice floor and watching game proceedings on the court.

PHILADELPHIA 76ers- North-eastern product Perry Moss has been seeing considerable action of late as a defensive-minded guard. Moss should be even more valuable to the Sixers now that Andrew Toney's bad foot has flared up again. Moss is a former draft pick on the Celtics, by the way.

Greg Stokes and Terry Catledge are two more first-year players who are on the Sixer roster. A beefy power forward, Catledge has shown some potential and could be prominent when Julius Erving retires.

NEW JERSEY NETS- The Nets have no rookies on their team.

WASHINGTON BULLETS- Unless you've been vacationing on Mars since the start of the 1985-86, you've heard of center Manute Bol, the Bullets sensation (for want of a better word), who graced the David Letterman show recently. Bol could wind up as the most prolific shot blocker in NBA history, but his offense (he's averaging about three points a game) leaves something to be desired. Quite a bit.

Just the same, he is a force when the opposition has the ball.

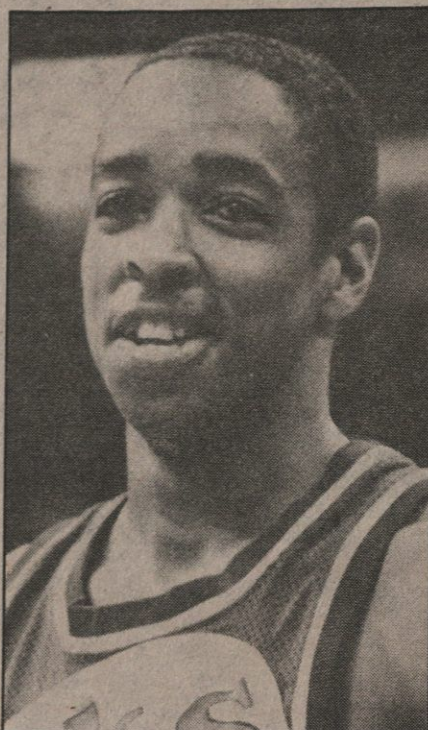
"Bol can stand eight feet away from you and still have a hand in your face," Danny Ainge says.

NEW YORK KNICKS- It's been said on these pages a few times before, if you think the Knicks are ragged with Patrick Ewing, imagine where they'd be without him. Ewing has proven to indeed be a great player, but not even the lad from Cambridge has been able to turn this sordid bunch of basketballers around. Ewing leads the Knicks in scoring, rebounds and blocked shots.

Bob Thornton and Fred Cofield are two more Knick rookies. With all of New York's injury wave, Thornton started in a recent game against the Celtics. He responded with eight points and 10 rebounds.

CENTRAL DIVISION

MILWAUKEE BUCKS- The lone Buck rookie is 6-7 forward Jerry Reynolds out of LSU. He hasn't made much of an impact on this veteran team, but is another one of those guys who could be a factor.



Spud is definitely a player.

ATLANTA HAWKS- Spud Webb, a 5-7 reserve point guard, has already become one of the NBA's cult heroes. Webb is averaging about 6.0 points and 3.0 assists a game, and shocked the world by winning the NBA's Slam Dunk contest.

"He's a player," Laker Coach Pat Riley said.

That seems to be the case. Webb may be a semi-midget by NBA standards but he can jump out of the building. And there aren't too many people around who can keep up with him when he has the ball.

In contrast, 7-foot center Jon Koncak was the league's fifth pick last summer. After a slow start, Koncak has come along, averaging better than 8.0 points and 5.0 rebounds a night. Koncak joins Tree Rollins and Kevin Willis in the Hawks' fraternity of 84-inch players.

Lorenzo Charles and John Battle round out the Atlanta quartet of rookies.

DETROIT PISTONS- First-round pick Joe Dumars is seeing plenty of action at off-guard and has the best shooting percentage of any Detroit backcourter, so he looks like he'll be around for a while. Dumars has deposited veteran John Long, cutting considerably into his playing time.

A McNeese St. (La.) product, Dumars was the 18th player selected in the NBA draft.

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS- Even though he was the 11th player selected in the collegiate player mart, Keith Lee has been riding the pine for a struggling team, which ought to tell you something. Cavaliers coach George Karl has been less-than-enthralled by what he's seen of Lee thus far-- 6.0 points and 4.0 rebounds a game.

INDIANA PACERS- The Pacers thought so highly of Wayman Tisdale that they selected him second to Patrick Ewing. At first Tisdale didn't appear to be worth that haughty draft status, but now the 6-9 forward from Oklahoma is starting to show what he can do. Tisdale is averaging better than 14.0 points and 7.0 rebounds a game. He'll be around for a while.

The Pacers also have Dwayne McClain, a 6-6 guard who was a member of Villanova's 1985 NCAA championship team. He's a local product, out of Holy Name High in Worcester.

CHICAGO BULLS- After a slow start, hefty power forward Charles Oakley is starting to assert himself. The Bulls acquired Oakley, who was drafted originally by Cleveland, for the draft rights of Keith Lee. It looks like a good deal for the Bulls, who haven't drafted very well the past few years.

Seven-foot center Mike Smrek is a reserve.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

HOUSTON ROCKETS- It was expected that first-round pick Steve Harris would give the Rockets some outside shooting punch, which he hasn't. That's because Harris has spent most of his time on the bench and is averaging less than 3.0 points a game. A disappointment thus far.

DENVER NUGGETS- Center Blair Rasmussen, who Denver selected 15th in overall, is at best a project at this point. He has been seeing very little service.

DALLAS MAVERICKS- Three Mavs draft picks--swingman Detlef Schrempf, centers Bill Wennington and Uwe Blab--made the team as rookies. A fourth freshman, guard Harold Keeling, was recently signed to a contract. Of the four, only Schrempf has seen appreciable playing time. He is versatile and should be around a while.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS- Neither Alfrederick Hughes, Mike Brittair nor Tyrone Corbin has done much in Alamo Country. First-round selection Hughes is logging the most minutes of the three.

UTAH JAZZ- Karl "The Mailman" Malone has been delivering nicely for the Jazz. He leads the team in rebounding, is second in scoring and third in blocked shots.

LIU First-year man Carey Scurry has also been seeing a few minutes here and there at forward.

SACRAMENTO KINGS- The sixth player taken in the draft, center Joe Kleine, is being brought along slowly the the Kings and has shown some signs of being a decent player. Free-agent signee Carl Henry is also on the roster.

PACIFIC DIVISION

LOS ANGELES LAKERS- In spot duty, forward A.C. Green seems to be fitting in well with the fast-breaking Lakers, averaging about 7.0 points, 5.0 rebounds and making better than half his shots from the floor.

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS- Much traveled Ken Johnson (he went to three high schools and two colleges), has been seeing sporadic duty for Portland at forward. A guard, first-round selectee Terry Porter, is a hard-nosed defensive ace who has been playing well for Portland.

PHOENIX SUNS- Bulgarian rookie Georgi Glouchkov would be the talk of Arizona, if only he could speak more than a few phrases of English... The Suns have stopped using an interpreter for the forward, as Coach John MacLeod feels its time he needs to start learning and understanding English.

Forward Ed Pinckney, who knows English well enough to have earned a degree from Villanova, was Phoenix's number-one pick. He's looked good in spots, and with the Suns going to a youth movement, should be a starter in the future.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS- Just when it looked like center Benoit Benjamin was going to be a major-league bust for ex-Celtic Don Chaney and the Clippers, he showed some signs of coming around. The league's third draft pick had 20 points and 15 rebounds, plus six blocked shots in a win over Phoenix and 20 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks in a victory over Houston.

Jeff Cross, a free-agent from Maine, was signed a couple of weeks back to fill a roster spot.

SEATTLE SUPERSONICS- Despite the Sonics' awful showing this season, there are those who feel forward Xavier McDaniel, not Patrick Ewing, should be the league's Rookie of the Year.

And they'd have a good case. McDaniel is averaging close to 17.0 points and eight rebounds a night, and is among the team leaders in steals. He's also connecting on nearly half of his shots from the field.

Amazingly, forward Michael Phelps, a seventh-round pick from Alcorn State, made the roster and has been with the team all season.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS- He reported to the team after the season started and thus didn't go through training camp, but that hasn't stopped guard Chris Mullin from making a good impression on NBA observers.

Mullin is being used as the third guard and is averaging more than 14.0 points a game. It's still too early to tell whether Mullin really is the second coming of John Havlicek, however.



K.C.s Corner

The West was Wild

We salvaged a winning record during our swing through the west; the west -- one might expect to hear about balmy weather, songs in bars, sun-tans, and the like. The weather was warm; but days brought rain in every city. The Celtics remained in first place, and we played some of our best ball of the season in certain stretches of the trip. But there was a shadow: Kevin McHale was forced to sit out every game, Scott Wedman and Bill Walton each suffered injuries, and we were forced to scramble much of the way. But we did not lose any ground and we were able to gain much-needed rest time for Kevin. As a further reward, Kevin is back and running more freely than he has in over a month.

Our best stretch of competition came after we were defeated in Sacramento. That Sacramento game opened the trip--and it was ugly. We could not regain our rhythm, apparently disrupted for real, after we had been off five days during the All-Star break. The defeat to the Kings (We made a serious run at them despite being 13 down with five minutes left) was disappointing for three reasons. First, we did not play well. Second, we were at the beginning of a trip which was very testing both physically (the Lakers, Trail Blazers, Denver, etc.) and because of the scheduling/travel. We played back-to-back three times and travelled on a difficult geographic route.

Third, we were without Kevin, who at first appeared to be a day-to-day casualty, but as the days went by, we changed our thinking. Thankfully, we began to play well quickly after the Sacramento defeat. Kevin reported soreness to Ray Melchiorre after our Monday night workout before the Tuesday night contest. It was a challenging practice and it came after McHale's own workout timetable had been changed during his participation in the All-Star Game. After the practice, his date of return was uncertain.

Our experience helped us here. We are the "oldest" ballclub in the league, but we have a definite sense of direction as a group. When we are defeated (the loss stopped our 13-game winning streak), we have a stronger sense of purpose. It's collective and it originates from the pride that veterans like Robert, Dennis, and Bill Walton bring to each game of the schedule. We went into Seattle against Gerald Henderson, Bernie Bickerstaff, and the 1st-round draft choice situation, and we controlled the contest. It was not pretty, but wins over an 82-game schedule are not always Rembrandts. We needed to get the job done.

In Portland, Larry Bird continued his phenomenal play of the past two months. Larry has stretches of play when he seems to be two steps ahead of the action--not easy in a game played by ten, harder still when we are discussing players at this level. Bird tossed in around twenty points lefthanded, these from a calculated driving game. The driving game was there because he was very sharp from the outside--47 points in all.

The points, besides the passing, rebounding (He is rebounding as well as 1981, his best rebounding season), hustling, scrapping. Larry was banged up earlier this year, and I believe he was pacing himself a little more early. But hurt or otherwise, he goes after it. He'll retire from this league banged up. He is a finesse and street fighter, a marvelous mix.

Bird tied the game in regulation with a jumper to gain us the overtime. He won it with another fadeaway, 120-119, with :30 left.

This contest proved critical; we headed down to LA after the game (and another flight delay) in a confident frame of mind. This was the game which was pivotal. The Green Team was superb, Larry and Dennis were running the floor, and we outlasted the Lakers on their home court. We picked up two games in the standings--our win, their loss. The

of these arenas, we are in first place, and we are the logical targets for teams which are struggling to make the playoffs. A win over us gives a Phoenix, a Denver, (for example) important momentum.

We hung in there, and I respect the guys for the win in Oakland, the near miss in Denver the following night. Greg Kite won the ballgame for us against the Warriors; he fought Larry Smith to a standstill on the boards; Smith is underrated but still he is one of the best in the league at horsing the boards. Greg kept him away, and without Scott, we were able to use DJ at small forward. We were able to neutralize Purvis Short this way, and we gained an important 115-100 win.

Doug Moe is a fine coach; he jokes, he believes in letting the players play, and always has his team prepared for us. The contest in Denver was tight and we almost pulled another win out. But now Walton was on the shelf with a sprained ankle, Robert and Dennis had hit the (athletic) wall in the high altitude, and we were defeated, 102-100, when Lafayette Lever hit a jumper off their set offense. But we were pleased; we won four of seven on the trip, and after the Lakers were defeated the night we returned to Boston, we did not lose any ground in the standings.

The postscript is we returned to the east and played some of our strongest offense/defense ball of the season in victories over Indiana, New York, and San Antonio. Our ballclub did not come back east with a suntan, or a rest from a vacation from our trip to the west. But we have returned--we hope it continues--with a relaxed mental attitude, one which has been building up over a season of hard work in practice and consistency in our games.



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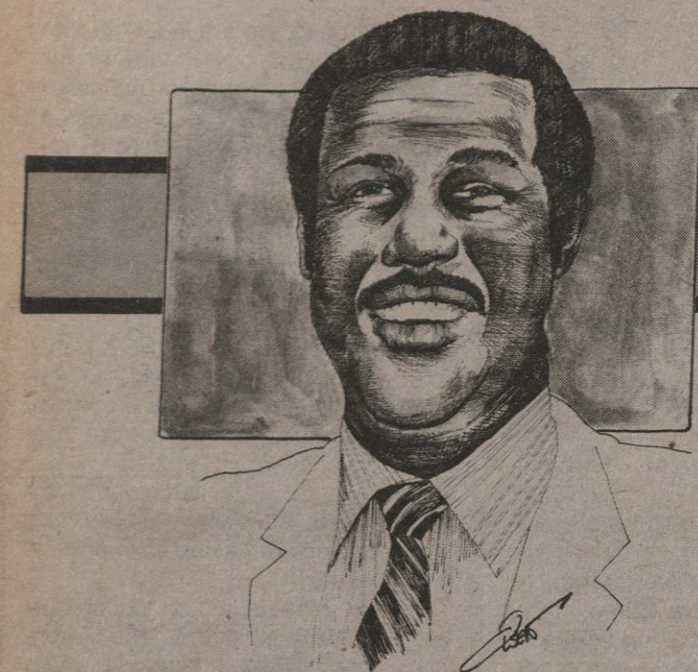
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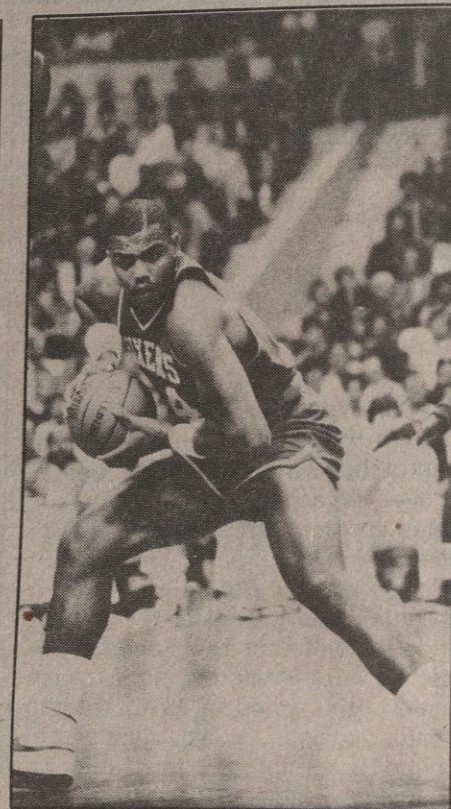
M. L. Carr



No Big Surprises in the NBA

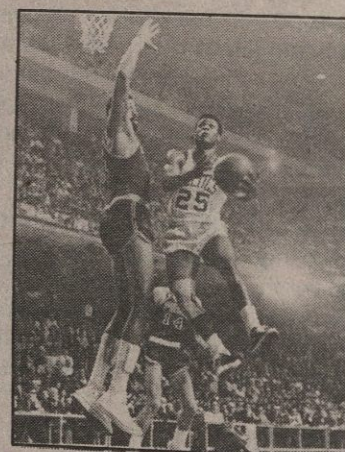
There haven't been a lot of big surprises if you look at the top three or four teams in the NBA. Those teams are right back up there again. Milwaukee always finds a way to stay in there. The Lakers have had a couple of injuries, but they're right back where they belong. Philadelphia had a tough time in the beginning, but they're starting to

pick up. People were writing them off as being old, but they're a team you have to keep your eye on. They signed Bob McAdoo recently and he's in a groove. Keep your eye on Philly. The Sixers had to go through an adjustment process with their new coach, Matt Guokas. With the departure of Billy Cunningham, they had to get used to Guokas' coaching style. Billy was there for a long time, and



Barkley: Talks big - plays big.

the players were in a certain routine. They also had to adjust to Julius Erving playing in the backcourt--that's not the easiest thing to do. Julius had to adjust his game from playing against big guys to all of a sudden running around with little guards. He had a transition period. The biggest thing for them is getting all these guys back at full strength. If they can get Andrew Toney back by playoff time, they'll be at full strength.



Feature of the Month

One of a Series of Vintage Action Photographs by:

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McAdoo was a good acquisition. He brings them another veteran player who's been there before--he's a legit player. He was on a championship team last year.

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Another thing to remember is Charles Barkley has been playing great.

There was a lot of complaining in Philly at the start of the season, but that's died down now. It's amazing what happens when you start winning. You look at things in a different light. All of a sudden, you look at your teammates and want to give them hugs. Other days, when you're losing, you want to get as far away from them as possible.

A lot of credit for the Bucks success goes to Coach Don Nelson-- he gets a lot out of his players. The Milwaukee players play their roles to perfection. They don't have a real star, but everyone on the team knows what they're supposed to do. That's part of the character Nellie has brought to the club. They're like the Celtics when it comes to players filling roles.

If you think about it, these are all principles Red Auerbach started years ago. He used to get players who got along and were conducive to winning. The Bucks don't have the greatest talents or the biggest names, but their guys are the kind who get it done every night."

The Atlanta Hawks could be the biggest surprise in the league. On a given night, they can beat anybody. The big question with them is whether or not they can sustain that. They've got three seven-footers-- inside players--and are getting points inside from them. Dominique Wilkins has been their leader, and the Hawks have been playing to their strength.



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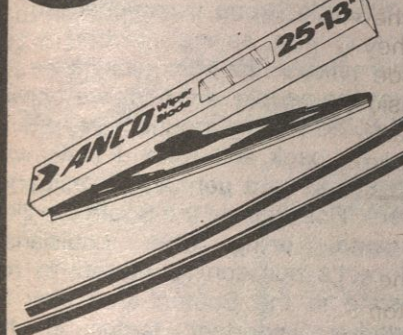
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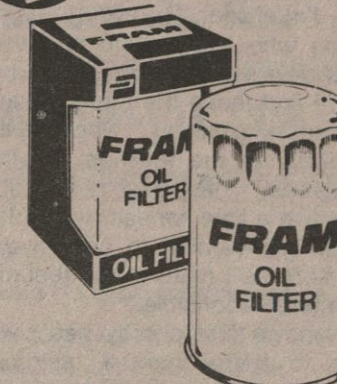
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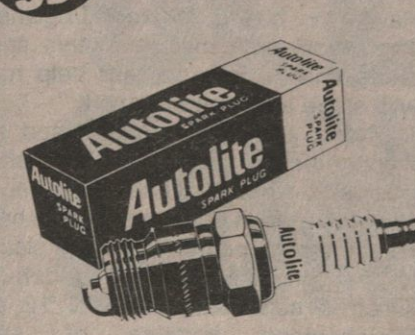
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Nancy Parish Enjoys Life To The Fullest



Nancy embraces life and enjoys every new experience.



Nancy and Justin enjoy watching Robert.

by Wilma Mahoney

Nancy Parish is not your average housewife. The wife of Celtics center Robert Parish and mother of four-year-old Justin could never be content sitting at home in Weston (in the house she helped design), basking in the reflected glory of her celebrity husband. In-

stead, Nancy loves trying new things and is currently establishing a career of her own as a performing artist in the highly competitive music industry.

She says, "It's going in all the right directions and I feel very positive about it." (Nancy told us earlier that Robert is a serious jazz buff, and since he likes her sound, it must be good!) A singer and lyricist, Nancy has been studying piano for the past fifteen months under the guidance of Professor Maggie Scott at Berklee School of Music. She states, "I learn jazz and the technical parts of music from Maggie. Actually, I work with a lot of different musicians. We all get together and each of them has a role to play. There's the musical group Hawkeye, based in New England. They work with me on rhythm and blues and pop music and help me with stage and theatrical work."

Nancy was born and raised in Manchester, N.H. where she graduated from St. Anselm's College with a degree in psychology. She has selected her home town as the place for her professional singing debut, which is scheduled for April 12 at Manchester's Institute of Art. Although she admits to feeling nervous, Nancy says, "They asked me where I wanted to perform first, and I said 'back home', because I figured that I would get the toughest part over with first. They will be the worst critics I could ever have." The lady has courage.

Besides her consuming interest in music, Nancy is an avid disciple of Kung Fu, which she has introduced to Robert and Justin and also to some of the other Celtics' wives, notably Kim Wedman. The Parish family goes through the Judo fundamentals together. Robert feels the discipline has psychologically helped him deal with stress and tension more effectively, while Nancy explains, "Kung Fu is more a dance form of martial ar-

ts. It's much more graceful and much more technical than the others."

There is no such thing as a typical day in the Parish household. At mealtimes, though Nancy likes French food, and Robert leans toward Italian and soul food specialties. Nancy says, "I'll cook anything. If I have a recipe, I can cook it." She continues, "One of the things I like about me and one of the things Robert really enjoys and the people around me enjoy, is that there is always something new happening. I like to keep stimulated."

When asked to describe herself, Nancy reflects, "I'm very centered with my goals. I know just what I want to achieve and I know that I'm not a tryer, I'm a doer. I'm not the type of person who sits around and thinks about doing this or doing that, I just do it. I find that's the easiest way to accomplish anything." She admits a sensitivity to the feelings of others but agrees, "I have a feisty side of me that's like a little lioness, which I like to say I'm learning to control more and more as I mature and feel more and more responsible."

Nancy's first priority has always been to better herself, spiritually, then emotionally and physically. She feels that "If I can be okay with who I am and what I'm doing, then everything else gets easier as you go down the list."

While Robert Parish is indisputably the center on court, at home, the center of both parent's attention is son Justin, who turned four in January. A boy who loves to spend time along with his Dad, Justin copes well with the idea of having a famous father. Nancy, who became a sports fan only after meeting her future husband on a blind date at Jason's six years ago, now enjoys attending Celtics games regularly with their son. She states, "Justin is very well adjusted. He has so much fun with

that (his father's fans). He'll offer to sign people's autographs along with Robert, and people are so kind that they'll accept them. He thinks it's terrific."

Justin pays close attention to the game and constantly asks Nancy questions during Celtics sessions to learn more about it. When Robert misses at the free throw line, Justin is apt to stand up and say, "Daddy, you missed." Nancy tells us that Justin might tell Robert after a game, "Daddy, you didn't do too good tonight," but he'll also say, "You had a great game tonight", because he hears people around him saying the same thing. Nancy opines, "I think his favorite part is going into the locker room after the game is over. He likes that the best."

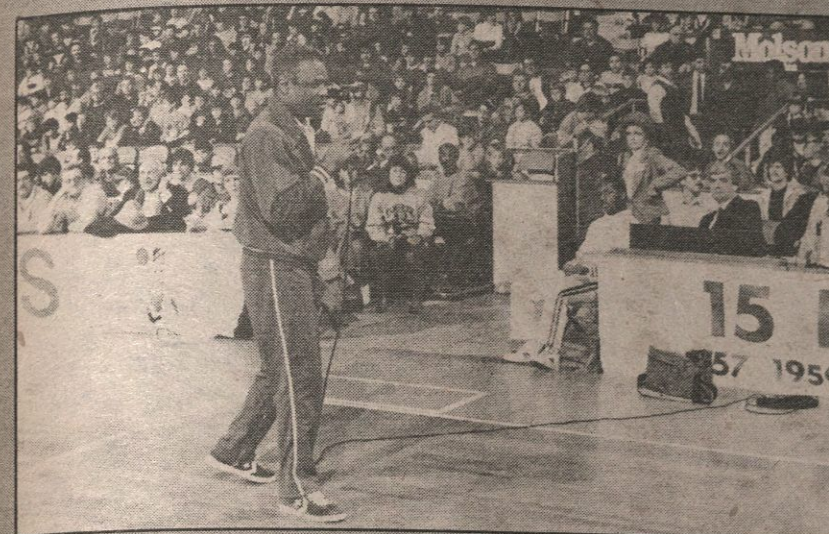
Besides Celtics basketball, Justin loves dancing and singing and is very artistic. He attends a Montessori preschool and enjoys anything athletic, including boxing, swimming and football. Nancy's hope for him is that he will learn to be free. She says, "I would like Justin to learn that there is something out there greater than all of the things that we look out at and think are so important. There's something out there more powerful, something stronger which will teach him to be very independent. If I had to use one word, it would be 'free', I would like Justin to learn how to be free."

The Parish family is firmly settled in Massachusetts. Looking to Robert's eventual retirement from basketball, Nancy cites her husband's strong commitment to the Boston area, saying, "Robert is real interested in the community here, he likes the people, so I think we'll pretty much be staying around here, even if we go back and forth. I think we'll always keep a permanent residence here. Robert likes the South, he likes Atlanta, being from Louisiana." Robert's burgeoning interest in real estate in the Boston area may be another important factor in the Parish's choice of Boston as a home base.

As for Nancy, she enthuses, "Boston is a great city. I've lived in New England my whole life and I love it. It's cultural, there are so many different kinds of people, it's a fun city. I love New York, even though it sounds like an old cliché. I like any kind of big city, because they all have something to offer, and it would be pretty tough to put my finger on just one."

A lady who embraces life and enjoys every new experience to the fullest, Nancy Parish sums it all up with "I'm not the kind of person who has a favorite anything. I always try to find something good in anything that I really like."

Old Tradition Renewed



K.C. loved it as much as the audience.

Polaroid Sponsors Instructional Clinic on March 2, 1986

For many years, the Celtics staged an annual instructional basketball clinic for their young fans before a game at the Garden. That policy was abandoned at the start of the Larry Bird era. But on Sunday, March 2nd, an old tradition was renewed when Polaroid Corporation sponsored such a clinic before the Celtics game with the Detroit Pistons.

2,000 aspiring basketball players from Boston area Boys Clubs, YMCA's and public schools, were on hand to heed the basketball wisdom of Celtics head coach K.C. Jones. All of the members of the Celtics team and coaching staff joined the coach in demonstrating the fundamentals of the game: dribbling, free-throw shooting, the jump shot, posting up, boxing out, defense, the fast break and more.

Jones was pleased with the turnout and the response: "During the summer, I get lots of opportunities to do clinics, but never with players like the Celtics as demonstrators. It was great to see so many city kids get the chance to see the best at the game showing off what they do best."

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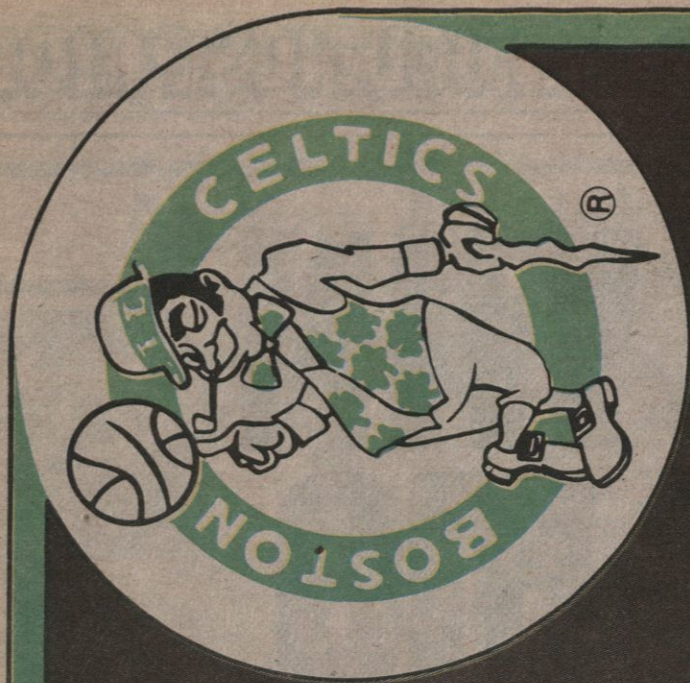
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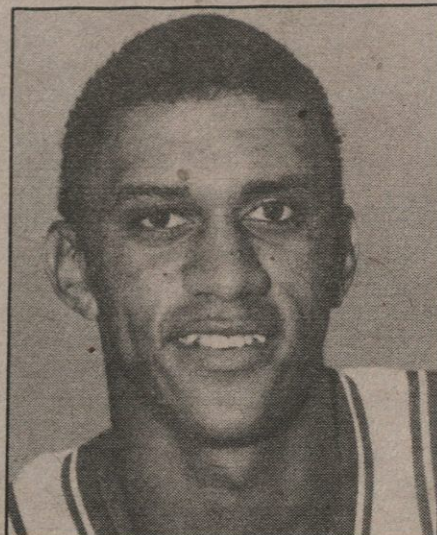


ROBERT PARISH

Celtics Confidential

By Bob Schron

College Watch. In late February, the Seattle Super Sonics fell five games behind the pack in the race for the final spot in the playoffs in the Western Conference. This is of particular importance since the Celtics own that team's 1st round choice in the upcoming college draft. Some perspectives on the better college players in the amateur ranks...**Jerry West**, Lakers' GM, made a scouting journey to Alabama and Pennsylvania, and told ESPN's Dick Vitale that "**Chuck Person** (of Auburn) is a player. At 6-6, he is a type who does not have a neatly defined position, but Person is so good he'll create a spot. He is very, very likely a lottery player." West, who was scouting the Alabama-Auburn contest in Birmingham, is also high on Bama's **Buck Johnson**... Vitale, loquacious and effusive, felt the Celtics, whether they were drafting in the lottery or not, would be looking at "very good players but no sudden impact players." He predicts



Walker: Could be a prize.

this order for the lottery: 1-**Brad Daugherty**, C, North Carolina; 2-**Kenny Walker**, F, Kentucky; 3-**Len Bias**, F, Maryland; 4-**Roy Tarpley**, C, Michigan; 5-**Chuck Person**, F, Auburn; 6-**Dell Curry**, G, Virginia Tech; 7-**Johnny Dawkins**, G, Duke. **Eddie Sutton**, Walker's Coach at Kentucky, calls his player "a big Sid-

ney Moncrief". Sutton coached Moncrief when the two were at University of Arkansas...**Glenn Ordway**, Celtics radio color commentator and columnist for **Celtics Pride** thinks Bias is a talented player but thinks the Maryland player would languish perhaps as much as "two or three years before getting significant playing time."

Most basketball people concede the point that Michigan's Tarpley is having a sub-par year; Doug Collins, former Sixer and perceptive color analyst for CBS, thinks the reason is "Tarpley has become too conscious of scouting reports; what he thinks the pros think his weak spots are. This can force a young player to change his game." But Tarpley still appears to be a Roy Hinson type... **Bob Ryan**, probably the best basketball scribe in the business and recently back on the Globe beat for a time, feels Dawkins is one of the best young guards he has seen in a long time.

According to Vitale, Marty Blake, who staffs a scouting service for the league, is projecting Miami (O)'s **Ron Harper** as a big guard. Vitale feels Harper will likely go in the top eight or nine in the draft.

Returning from their trip out west, the Celtics immediately played in Hartford and New York before finally playing their first game in the Garden in three weeks against the Spurs. In Los Angeles, the Celtics, Bullets, and Hawks stayed in the same Marriott for one evening. The Bullets were to play the Clippers, Atlanta had played the Lakers, and the Celtics were to meet the Lakers...The trip was marred by continual flight delays... Through it all, the Voice of **Johnny Most**, continued to abstain from smoking cigarettes during his 34th straight game. "He broke the Lakers 33-game (1971-72 winning) streak," joked Ordway.

Danny Ainge was mired in a shooting slump. "I'm just not shooting well, moaned Ainge. "What's happening is that Larry (Bird) and DJ have played so well offensively, they've controlled the ball more than they had been earlier in the year. I'm positioned more on the weak side and I'm standing around too much. I'm not creating enough flow for myself within the offense." K.C. Jones wasn't concerned per se, but said "I'm worried that he's worried about it. The great jump shooters in this league are cocky." Jones was asked if Ainge was one of those cocksure players. The coach laughed and said, "I think so. We'll find out."

Chris Ford Celtics Assistant Coach commented about the trip: "Every team in the league has difficult

trips; this was one of ours. We had three back-to-back sets, several early morning flights, and the trip ended up in Denver, in high altitude. But we stayed even, despite missing McHale, Wedman and Walton for parts of the trip."

There was some concern by one of the Pacers about George Irvine's difficulties at the helm of the young Pacers' team. "George does a good job but he runs into trouble because he refers to his days as a player as a way of communicating with us. That doesn't work here. We need him to be a coach, not a former player."

New Jersey Assistant Coach **Paul Silas** scouted the Spurs-Celtics game in Boston and offered some feelings on the tragic **Michael Ray Richardson** suspension: "It's a case of the rule (suspending the player) not working. You cannot expect a player to be rehabilitated from a disease in two weeks. Michael needed to have someone with him every day; needed to have special meetings and counseling sessions every day. This was not done. It's sad"...Silas thinks the Celtics, barring injury, will probably win the title. "LA's not as tough, right now. What **Pat Riley** has to do is sit **Magic (Johnson)** down for a few weeks and get him back his legs. He has to do the same thing with **Kareem (Abdul-Jabbar)**. Those two players look like they're dragging. And if they drag, the Lakers are gone."

Bill Walton in conjunction with Spalding made an appearance at Jordan Marsh locally... **Earl Monroe**, former Knick great, commented recently on the increased specialization in the game, i.e., "point guards", "shooting guards", etc. Monroe thinks roles are more specific because the game is much faster...He also commented that his former teammate, **Willis Reed**, now Atlanta Assistant Coach and in his first year as coach of the Knicks when Monroe was finishing his career 1977, did not run the game well from the bench.

USA Today featuring Larry Bird in a sidebar story, telling how the Hoosier went to Atlanta to appear at a sporting goods show with **Mark Price**, Georgia Tech point guard. Price had missed a crucial free throw against then 1st-ranked North Carolina two nights earlier, and after Bird shook hands with the collegian, Larry expressed concern that the handshake might affect his own foul shooting. In the Western trip, Bird missed two free throws in Sacramento to which were important, and another in Denver. "I should have patted him on the back, because I've shot a lot of bricks since then!" stated Bird.

February 19, at Oakland Celtics 115, Golden State 100

After the Celtics' most recent win, Warrior forward and team captain **Purvis Short** called Larry Bird "by far the best player in the league today."

There aren't too many people around the NBA who would disagree with Short. Bird treated a packed house at Oakland Coliseum Arena to a triple-double-- 36 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists. They were all game highs.

"Larry has been playing a lot of minutes for us," Celtics Coach K.C. Jones said. "He is the greatest total player I have ever seen. He shoots, rebounds, passes, has a great attitude and comes to play every night."

Said Bird: "I just try to go out there and play my normal game. If you put pressure on yourself, you tend not to play well."

"I've been playing 40 or more minutes a game this entire trip. K.C. needs me. These are important games. I've got to play those minutes if the team is going to win. I want to play."

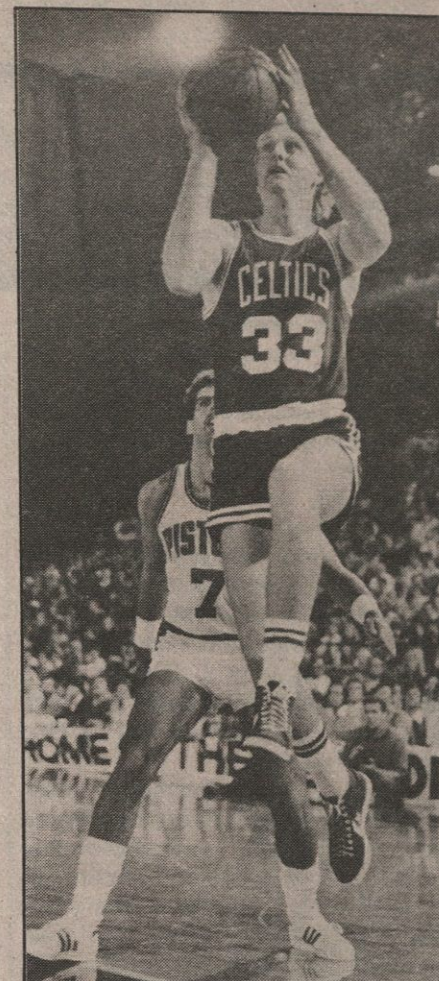
So be it. After the Warriors took a 71-69 lead with 8:30 left in the third quarter, the C's ran off a 12-2 spurt to take command of the game. And guess who scored eight of those points? Hint: He's number 33.

"You'd have to have Roget's Thesaurus to describe what Bird does out there," said Warrior Coach **John Bach**, a former Celtics player. "He does everything in so many different ways that you can't prepare for them. He'll have a lot more triple-doubles before he's through."

February 20, at Denver Denver 102, Celtics 100

Larry Bird was brilliant once again --scoring 27 points and grabbing 16 rebounds, but Denver guard **Fat Lever** was the hero on this night.

GAME BY GAME - REVIEW



Bird: Just his normal game!

Lever's 20-foot jump shot with 26 seconds left in the game broke a 98-98 tie, lifting the Nuggets to a victory.

Following Lever's shot, Bird missed a jumper from 17 feet out when Boston guard **Jerry Sichting** fell at Bird's feet trying to set a pick. Denver then made a wild pass on the ensuing in-bound play, but **Bill Hanzlik** slapped the ball off **Scott Wedman's** leg, and the Nuggets retained possession.

T.R. Dunn proceeded to hit two free throws to seal the Nugget triumph.

Alex English was the game's top scorer with 31 points, and **Calvin Natt** added 18 for Denver. **Robert Parish** scored 16 points for Boston. **Scott**

Wedman and **Dennis Johnson** dropped in 14 apiece.

February 25, at New York Celtics 91, New York 74

For the fifth time in his last eight outings, Larry Bird fashioned a triple-double. This time, the Bird ledger read: 24 points, 18 rebounds and 13 assists, as the Celtics stifled the Knicks.

Cambridge product **Patrick Ewing**, who had missed some time with an injury, was back in the lineup for New York. He scored 16 points, but made just eight of 20 shots from the field.

Bill Walton helped out the Celtics quite a bit, with 15 points and 14 rebounds. Ewing was the high man for the Knicks, who went the first five minutes of the fourth quarter without a field goal.

February 26, at Boston Celtics 123, San Antonio 100

The Celtics upped their Garden record 24-1, and center **Robert Parish** matched his season-high of 27 points. Eleven of those scores came during a 17-6 Boston surge late in the first half. Boston went ahead for good early in the first quarter, after the Spurs got out to an 8-6 lead.

Parish also grabbed 10 rebounds to go along with his 27 points. Larry Bird had 22 points and nine assists for the Celtics. **Mike Mitchell** led the Spurs with 16 points, and **Steve Johnson** added 15.

February 28, at Boston Celtics 124, LA Clippers 108

The Celtics barely broke a sweat in yet another triumph at the Garden. They raced off to a quick, 7-0 lead in the first quarter, and that was that.

Kevin McHale, apparently back from an aching achilles tendon, scored 26 points. The 6-11 frontcourter missed just one of 11 field attempts. **Robert Parish** also had 26

and **Dennis Johnson** chipped in 21, as Boston shot 59 percent from the field (51-87).

And Larry Bird? He had a triple-double, which is getting to be old hat for him. Bird had 20 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists.

Marques Johnson led the Clippers with 24 points and **Kurt Nimphus** added 16. Ex-Celtic **Cedric Maxwell**, on his first appearance on Boston in a Clipper uniform, started the game and only had only six points.

March 2, at Boston Celtics 129, Detroit 109

Two second-half scoring binges, which saw the Celtics outscore Detroit 7-0 and 16-0, put an end to the Pistons' franchise record 10-game winning streak. Meanwhile, Boston won its fifth straight and 17th consecutive game at the Garden.

"We had a good run--10 in a row," Detroit Coach **Chuck Daly** said. "We're playing the best basketball we can but they are too. Their intensity was phenomenal."

Celtics guard **Danny Ainge** was phenomenal, scoring a career high 27 points. He made 11 of 18 shots, not bad for a guy who had been mired in a shooting slump.

"There's no real explanation except that I was getting open and making the shots," Ainge said. "We really got our fast break going. That's when I play my best basketball."

Boston also received good performances from Larry Bird and **Kevin McHale**. Bird had a game-high 35 points (to go along with nine rebounds) and McHale, who made all 10 of his field goal tries, had 25 points.

"The guys made great passes to me down low," McHale said. "Our team feeds it very well down low and I was getting the ball in good position."

Isiah Thomas had 25 points and 14 assists for the Pistons. Detroit center **Bill Laimbeer**, who was born in Boston, had 16 points and 13 rebounds.

MARCH... up to WILDCAT



Come up to WILDCAT on Saturday, March 29th and join the NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS for their RITES OF SPRING. The PATRIOTS' organization will be frolicking in the spring snow at Attitash on Friday, and joining in WILDCAT'S annual CORN SNOW CAPER on Saturday. Sponsored by COCA-COLA, the weekend of fun is being held for the benefit of the Children & Youth Project of Carroll County and the U.S. Disabled Ski Team. Everyone is invited.

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Nuggets 102, Celtics 100

BOSTON
Wedman 7-15 0-0 14, Bird 12-18 2-3 27, Parish 6-15 4-6 16, Johnson 4-19 6-7 14, Ainge 4-8 0-0 9, Kite 3-5 0-2 6, Thirkill 0-10 0 0, Sichting 4-5 4-4 12, Carlisle 0-2 0-0 0, Vincent 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 40-88 18-24 100.

DENVER
English 10-24 11-14 31, Natt 9-15 0-0 18, Cooper 5-11 1-3 11, Lever 8-18 0-2 16, Dunn 1-3 2-4, Schayes 0-4 1-2 1, Hanzlik 6-12 5-6 17, Turner 1-3 0-0 2, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Evans 1-5 0-0 2. Totals 41-95 20-29 102.

Boston 30 24 23 23-100
Denver 28 28 29 21-102

Three-point goals--Bird, Ainge. Fouled out--None. Rebounds--Boston 65 (Bird 16), Denver 52 (Schayes 9). Assists--Boston 25 (Ainge 8), Denver 18 (Lever 11). Total fouls--Boston 25, Denver 23. Technicals--Boston assistant coach Rogers 2 (ejected), Boston illegal defense. A--17,022.

Celtics 91, Knicks 74

BOSTON
Bird 9-14 5-5 24, Wedman 3-9 0-0 6, Parish 9-17 2-2 20, Ainge 5-7 0-0 10, Johnson 1-9 1-2 3, Walton 7-8 1-1 15, McHale 0-1 0-0 0, Sichting 5-6 0-0 11, Carlisle 0-10 0-0 0, Kite 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 40-73 9-12 91.

NEW YORK
Orr 4-16 2-3 10, Thornton 4-5 0-0 8, Ewing 8-20 0-3 16, Sparrow 1-8 1-2 3, Wilkins 5-13 1-2 11, Bailey 2-9 5-6 9, Walker 5-9 0-0 10, Tucker 1-6 0-0 2, Bannister 1-2 1-2 3, Grunfeld 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 32-92 10-18 74.

Boston 22 17 26 28-91
New York 17 23 16 18-74

Three-point goals--Bird, Sichting. Fouled out--None. Rebounds--Boston 60 (Bird 18), New York 44 (Thornton 10). Assists--Boston 26 (Bird 13), New York 17 (Walker 6). Total fouls--Boston 17, New York 15. A--18,329.

Celtics 120, Spurs 100

SAN ANTONIO
S. Johnson 6-9 3-5 15, Mitchell 6-14 4-4 16, Gilmore 4-9 3-5 11, Matthews 4-8 3-4 11, Robertson 4-13 2-2 10, Greenwood 5-12 0-0 10, Lamp 6-9 1-2 13, Williams 2-8 0-0 4, Wilkins 1-8 0-0 2, Sundvold 3-7 2-2 8, Hughes 0-1 0-0 0, Brittain 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 41-87 18-24 100.

BOSTON
Wedman 5-13 0-0 10, Bird 9-22 4-4 22, Parish 11-16 5-8 27, D. Johnson 6-11 2-2 14, Ainge 1-5 2-4, McHale 6-9 2-2 14, Sichting 6-9 1-1 13, Walton 3-5 0-0 6, Carlisle 2-4 0-0 4, Kite 1-2 0-0 2, Vincent 0-2 2-2 2, Thirkill 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 51-99 18-19 120.

San Antonio 23 25 31 21-100
Boston 32 29 35 24-120

Fouled out--None. Rebounds--San Antonio 47 (Greenwood 9), Boston 64 (Parish 10). Assists--San Antonio 23 (Matthews 5), Boston 32 (Bird 9). Total fouls--San Antonio 13, Boston 16. Technical--Gilmore.

Celtics 129, Pistons 109

DETROIT
Tripucka 9-15 2-3 20, Benson 4-8 0-0 8, Laimbeer 7-13 2-2 16, Dumars 6-8 0-0 12, Thomas 9-20 6-9 25, Cureton 5-6 1-2 11, V. Johnson 5-10 1-2 11, Mahorn 1-2 0-0 2, Campbell 2-4 0-0 4, Long 0-0 0-0 0, Nevitt 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 48-87 12-18 109.

BOSTON
Wedman 3-7 0-0 6, Bird 12-23 11-11 35, Parish 3-6 0-0 6, D. Johnson 6-15 0-2 12, Ainge 11-18 3-3 27, McHale 10-10 5-5 25, Sichting 1-4 0-0 2, Walton 1-6 2-2 4, Carlisle 2-3 0-0 4, Kite 2-2 0-2 4, Vincent 1-2 1-3, Thirkill 0-1 1-2 1. Totals 52-97 23-28 129.

Detroit 31 34 24 20-109
Boston 28 33 36 31-129

Three-point goals--Thomas, Ainge 2. Fouled out--None. Rebounds--Detroit 43 (Laimbeer 13), Boston 52 (Bird 9). Assists--Detroit 29 (Thomas 14), Boston 31 (D. Johnson 8). Total fouls--Detroit 27, Boston 15. Technicals--Boston Coach Jones.



Glenn Ordway

There Are A Few Things We Could Do Without

Let's face it...the NBA is enjoying its greatest success ever. Most franchises are actually making money. Attendance is up in virtually every arena. Professional Basketball is the only sport that is showing in-

creases in network television ratings. The NBA is regarded by the public as the leader in combating the drug problem. Not only do people tune in to watch it's annual All Star game but millions are glued to their TV sets the night before to watch the preliminary



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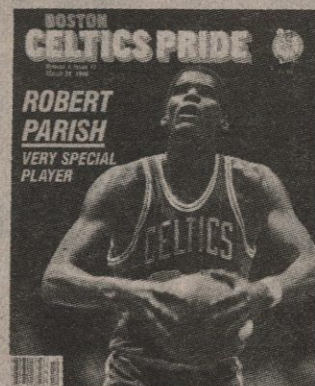
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Adios, bears, chickens and blobs.

festivities (slam dunk and three point contest). There is not a heck of a lot wrong with the league right now...BUT there are a few things I think the NBA could do without:

COMBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD....It seems the formula to win this award is either sit out a season with a contract squabble and then return to your normal form the next year with a lot more money or to battle your way back from a drug problem and finally play to your potential. Maybe the league should change the title to most improved player. That way we would reward someone for improving his skills instead of rectifying a personal problem.

TEAM MASCOTS....The dragons, bears, chickens, blobs have got to go!!! In Sacramento recently, I couldn't resist the temptation in conversation with a Kings official to refer to their mascot as the worst I had ever seen in sports. His reply was "What do you guys do in Boston?" "Play basketball", I said. I swear many of these teams are trying to ap-

peal to fans with a fourth grade education and a recent labotomy. The only exception would be the Phoenix Gorilla. But then again even he belongs on the David Letterman show and not on a basketball court.

TELEVISION CLOSEUPS OF THE CROWD (ESPECIALLY IN L.A.)....How many times have you begged your TV set to please show that Bird behind the back, 360 degree, double pump finger roll replay only to be burdened with Walter Matthau picking his nose, Dionne Warwick eating popcorn or some well bronzed California pin-up girl starring at the camera telling an entire nation "We're number one". We all know that's as high as she can count. If we want to see Matthau picking his nose, we can rent the videocassette "Odd Couple". When will television directors ever realize that the game is the show!

THREE GAMES IN FOUR NIGHTS....Fans are asked to spend twenty plus dollars per ticket in most NBA arenas these days. Yet in many instances, they are subjected to a show that is slightly sub-par due to bizarre scheduling. It is impossible for a professional athlete to remain in both mental and physical peak condition when he is forced to play three forty plus minute games over a four day period. Add to this the rigors of six A.M. wake-up calls and air travel in between games and you end up with a pretty tired player by that fourth day. What makes it even worse...In some cases the team you face on day 4 has been enjoying a three day rest.

TALK OF EXPANSION....The Santa Ana Bananas, Miami Hoop Marlins, the Toronto Argonets and the Minneapolis Whatever's may soon become part of our team vocabulary. How can the league even think of expanding at this time? As I said at the beginning, the NBA is enjoying it's finest moment. Why not tighten up what you have right now and bask in the glory. Expansion means a further watering-down of the product. It means a dispersal draft that breaks up current rosters. Four year ago players movement was so rampant that you couldn't tell a team from year to year without a program. But, salary caps, right of first refusal and increased revenues have kept team identities in tack. A dispersal draft along with additional teams picking in the college draft would change all that. Just think though, Five years ago we were talking about the possibility of some teams folding. So, though we are still subjected to bizarre scheduling, Walter Matthau, Comeback players who were absent on their own accord and Bingo, Bongo and Duncan... It could be Worse...We could have been talking about the league's existence.

Ray Melchiorre: Expert and Colorful Trainer

The importance of Trainer Ray Melchiorre to the championship drive of the Boston Celtics has become etched in sharp relief during the past two months of the 1985-86 season. With Kevin McHale suffering from a severely strained Achilles tendon and others (Scott Wedman, Danny Ainge, Bill Walton and Dennis Johnson) missing scattered numbers of contests, Melchiorre has been under pressure to rehabilitate the athletes, especially McHale.

"I hadn't noticed, really," remarked the 5-8, dark haired, 46-year old Melchiorre. "Although I guess it becomes more noticeable since now we are the oldest team in the league and we do have players who have been injured."

"Walton came to the team with a history of injuries, Bird had trouble last year in the playoffs because of injuries, and now over a period of years, there are overuse syndromes. But the work itself has not been different. Maybe the attention has."

Like the stereotyped description of referees who are effective when they are not noticed, trainers are most times appreciative of obscurity as they perform their jobs in the NBA. In the Celtics' Media Guide, Public Relations Director Jeff Twiss noted that the Celtics' injuries have been kept to a minimum during Melchiorre's tenure as trainer of the Celtics; the prevention is due to Melchiorre's stretching and flexibility work with the team before practice, a common practice now but rare when he came to Boston in 1979.

Ray Melchiorre is a spirited Italian who brings both a wealth and a diversity of experience to his profession. This is a man who as a teen lived in Japan. He speaks three (Japanese, Turkish, and English) languages. He has a coaching and psychology background. Melchiorre originally conceived high school basketball coaching as a profession.

In his senior year at Bethel College--having completed military service--Ray, doubling as coach and trainer, responded expertly in an accident when a player lost his finger hanging on the rim. His work received public praise although the finger was permanently severed. Melchiorre now views this as being in the right spot at the right moment; offers began coming in. A school which was available, was Morehead State in Kentucky: the responsibilities were to be trainer for all sports, a graduate assistantship, an opportunity to gain a Masters, and a modest salary. His interest aroused, Melchiorre pursued the profession at a series of All-Star



Ray prefers anonymity.

games in Tennessee.

"If you were any follower of the game in the south, these games were unbelievable. In one North-South game, the coaches were Lou Carneseca and Press Maravich. In a Tennessee-Kentucky game, I worked for the Baron, Adolph Rupp. I also met David (Cowens) and Tiny for the first time in these games."

"I wasn't finally decided about training as a profession at that time. I'm from Philadelphia, and I had an offer to be the Girls' Basketball Coach at Trenton Junior High School in New Jersey. To me basketball was more important than athletic training."

"But then I began hearing offers from people like Babe McCarthy of the old New Orleans Buccaneers of the American Basketball Association. He called and offered, 'eight or nine-thousand dollars'. Now, to me, a guy coming out of school, that 'eight-or-nine' was significant. I asked him which, he said he'd get back to me."

"McCarthy never did get back to me, and I did get another offer I didn't take---something like a couple of hundred a week. But these started me in the direction of training. When you're talking about the ultimate in basketball, it's pro ball. Finally I took the Pittsburgh Condor (ABA) job. It

was close to Philly..."

Melchiorre is among the top of his profession. He has contributed significantly to two championships in Boston. He has been the head trainer in the NBA All-Star Game (1983 in Los Angeles), and he has worked in Buffalo under Jack Ramsey, and in Boston under Bill Fitch and K.C. Jones. His professionalism is derived from his effectiveness in dealing with the athlete on a human level and his willingness to be resourceful and innovative in his work. The latter has included use of different technologies, including the Galvanic Stimulator, which promotes healing of injured muscle groups. He also consults with specialists in different fields and exchanges ideas with trainers in other sports. Melchiorre dismisses the significance of this; "it's what I have to do to keep up," he says. "You feel like you don't know enough--it becomes a never ending situation as far as education is concerned."

Good-natured kidding among the people involved confers a tolerable atmosphere for fifteen men who live together during a nine-month odyssey which is a basketball season. Is the psychology minor an aid in understanding the psyche of the player?

"Nothing specific. You know the mental approach of the player

because of coaching experience, and probably because of some psychology. The most useful lesson from that area is to be continually open-minded and continually listening," he says.

This is a spirited, proud, sensitive man; Melchiorre is married to a strong, independent woman, Liz Melchiorre and the couple have three children, Michael, Kathy, and Lisa (all who have worked the Celtics bench in past years). Raymond is one of the veterans of the profession, and has had questions about being in a profession where most of his colleagues are younger (Veteran coaches ponder similar questions). One of the ideal alternate careers: Manager of a rock and roll or country band. Melchiorre, as a result, became friendly with Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band and entourage as that group and the Celts became mutual fans last season.

And he is a motorcycle driver between the generations. He drives a Honda bike beginning next month, as he does every spring. His father, Dr. Joseph Melchiorre, is an important supporter of the team and frequently travels with the team during the playoffs. There is a subtle realization that Ray's dad is another source of emotional support for the athletes, particularly late in the year.

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Mary Faherty: The Woman Behind The Man

"Mr. Auerbach's Office"

by David Zuccaro

It is said that behind every successful man, there is an equally successful woman. In the world of professional basketball, no man has attained more eminence than the effervescent Red Auerbach. Thus, in the land of hoops, the woman behind the man is Auerbach's secretary, Mary Faherty.

With the exception of Red, Mary has been employed with the Boston Celtics longer than any present member of the front office staff. Her services began as a part-time receptionist and secretary in 1967, the same year that Red took over the General Manager's title. K.C. Jones ended a brilliant playing career, the Red Sox were to appear in their first World Series in 21 years and just four people worked in the Celtics brass. "At that time, Boston was not a basketball town, mostly hockey and baseball. In fact, the day I was hired I broke the news to my family that I was going back to work and when I told them it was for a sports organization, they guessed the Red Sox and Bruins before they even thought the Celtics, although my husband and daughter were basketball fans, even then. I'm so glad to see how popular basketball is now, because it's a great sport and exciting to watch. It's too bad it took so long to become popular here and it wasn't easy for Red during the bad times," notes Faherty.

In 1969, the Celtics had just wrapped up title number eleven, Dave Cowens was entering his senior year in college and a 6'3" guard from Kansas named JoJo White was the Celtics number one draft choice. Also in that year, Mary was appointed as a full-time employee of Celtics' management. Her duties included secretarial work for Red (General Manager), Jeff Cohen (assistant



Red and Mary are an effective team.

General Manager), Howie McHugh (Publicity Director) and Joe DeLauri (Trainer). "Those days were different in many ways compared to today. I remember when it was necessary to have promotions and give-a-ways to get people to attend the games. One night the team even gave jackets away. Now, every game is a sellout."

From a jack-of-all-trades worker ("Howie used to kid me that his work

came first since I was everyone's secretary"), Mary is presently in her tenth year as Office Manager. She is accountable for the balance of the behind-the-scenes workers, a duty that contains daily pressure and a high degree of responsibility, including players and staff insurance. Another duty of Faherty is the tedious task of proofreading most articles sent on Celtics' stationery, mainly the huge total of press releases the Celtics' publicity department relinquishes. "One day I saw an error in a press release a few years ago and that was a mistake. I've been proofreading ever since," says Faherty jokingly. The term "Celtics' Family" may seem generic and somewhat meaningless to an outsider, but to the matriarch of the household that is far from reality. "The people that work here are warm and friendly. Some of us have been here through the tough times, but it's a pleasure to be associated with everyone," Faherty describes with (Celtics ?) pride. Also, consider that not only is she liable for thirteen staff members, but Mary is also the liaison between the general public and Auerbach.

With popularity that is associated to one of Auerbach's caliber, fan mail can increase in quantity. A good portion of Faherty's day is spent replying to Red's mail. "He has fans all over the country and abroad, too. There is one fan in Amsterdam who writes every year and asks Red for different paraphernalia (of which this devotee usually gets a positive reply). In the past two weeks alone, Red has received letters from Japan, Poland, Israel, Czechoslovakia and Mexico. Children also write him for advice on basketball and Red usually responds that academics comes first and athletics follow," remarks Mary. "He also gets what seems like a daily sample of cigars from various people." Speaking of the item most commonly associated with Auerbach, Faherty adds: "I thought I'd never get used to the smell of cigars, but it seems I'm immune to them now."

Faherty continues: "The phone rings off-the-hook, too. Red gets many requests for speaking appearances, social functions, etc. Eventually, I have to handle every demand."

When Red went into semi-retirement two years ago, the Celtics honored him with an unforgettable affair that lasted an entire weekend. "It was the nicest tribute. It was certainly well-deserved. To see all the ex-players, brought back memories. Some of them I hadn't seen in years, yet they still came to me to show their appreciation. It was exciting to see

them. Of course, some ex-players still live in the area and I see them frequently at social functions and especially at the home games. Hank Finkel, Steve Kuberski, Dave Cowens, Kevin Stacom, John Havlicek, Tom Sanders, Tom Heinsohn - they are all gentlemen - I could go on forever."

In fact, before the Los Angeles Clippers recent date against the Celtics at the Garden, former star and now head coach of the Clippers Don Chaney came by the office to say 'Hello' and talk about the old times and the new. That is what's meant by the Celtics family.

Additionally, Mary has her genetic family also. She resides in West Roxbury with her husband Marty. They are the proud parents of three children: Patricia, who lives in Franklin with her husband Jack and their children Sean and Julie; and sons Richard, who resides in Tewksbury, with his wife Darlene and their recently adopted three-month-old Korean boy Daniel, and Kevin, who is an aspiring song-writer living in Nashville, Tennessee. Mary lists Cape Cod as her favorite vacation spot, but a 1984 visit to Switzerland and Ireland make those countries a close second.

Red is no longer General Manager, K.C. Jones is the head coach and not a player, the Red Sox have not been in post-season play in 10 years and the office staff has increased tremendously since the days when Faherty got her start; however, Mary continues her work for the Celtics in 1986 with the hopes of championship number 16.

Welcome to a New Member of the Family

The Celtics family was increased in size in late February when Daniel Han Faherty joined the clan. Daniel's grandmother is Mary Faherty, who has been Red Auerbach's executive secretary and the organization's office manager for almost twenty years.

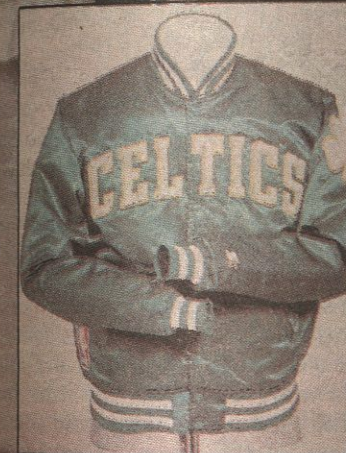
The 2 foot tall, 17 pound future superstar is the adopted son of Rich and Darlene Faherty. Born in Korea on November 18, 1985, he was welcome to his new adopted home in a tearful union with the entire Faherty clan at Logan Airport on Saturday, February 22nd.

Everyone in our family wishes the newest addition to the Faherty family all the best in his new home.

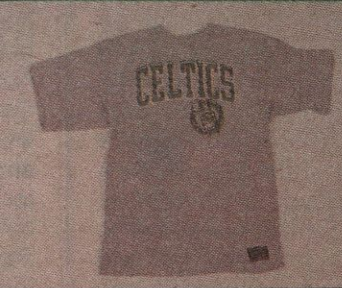
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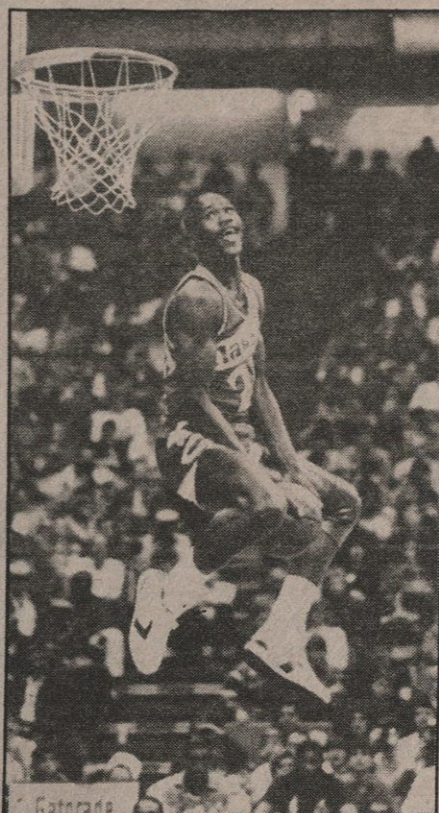




NBA Notebook

By Terry Lyons

There are several red-hot clubs battling it out in the Central Division, but the team which has won the division the last five years is perched in its usual spot atop the divisional standings. The Milwaukee Bucks are seeking their sixth straight Central and seventh consecutive divisional title and last week's All-Star/NBA Player of the Week, **Sidney Moncrief**, recently led his club to an impressive win streak that included four consecutive road victories. "This is as well as we've played all year," said Moncrief, who averaged 26 points, 6.0 assists and 5.5 rebounds during the stretch. "It looks like we're peaking at just the right time."... While the Bucks maintained their lead over their Central Division opponents, **Isiah Thomas** and the Detroit Pistons have been making sparks themselves. "We've been playing good basketball, but Isiah has been playing great basketball," said Pistons Coach **Chuck Daly** recently. "Since the All-Star Game, Isiah has been playing the best I've ever seen him play. He's



Dominique emerged as a star.

really on top of his game and has the determination to always win."... Meanwhile, down in Atlanta, All-Star forward **Dominique Wilkins** has emerged among the league's scoring leaders. Wilkins ranked third in the NBA as of Feb. 23, with a 28.6 scoring average, placing him right behind Utah's **Adrian Dantley** (28.9 ppg) and league leader **Alex English** of Denver (29.1 ppg). Both English and Dantley have previously won NBA scoring titles while Wilkins, in his fourth year with the Hawks, placed sixth in the NBA scoring race last season (27.4) in his previous best scoring performance. "If they voted for MVP right now," said Boston's **Larry Bird** during the NBA All-Star Weekend, "it would have to be Dominique."... And if you're talking about the great things going on in the Central, don't forget to include the Indiana Pacers and center-forward **Herb Williams**. The Pacers are within reach of the last playoff berth in the Eastern Conference as Williams continues to lead the team in scoring and rebounding.

Switching over to the Midwest Division, the Houston Rockets are trying to make it without All-Star center **Akeem Olajuwon**, who was sidelined with a sprained ligament in his right knee. Fellow Twin Tower **Ralph Sampson** moved back to the center position from his usual power forward spot and scored a season-high 38 points against Dallas on Feb. 21. "I worried about Ralph being back in the center," said Mavericks Coach **Dick Motta**. "He has to be the second or third best center in the league. He's not the same player when he's at forward." Says Sampson: "I have to make sure I eat right, sleep right and get all the rest I can between games so that I'm not burned out when Akeem comes back."... Also in the Midwest, Sacramento forward **Eddie Johnson** has been playing exceptional basketball of late. Johnson was in the starting lineup for the first 30 games of the season but was switched to sixth man and has flourished in the role. "Eddie's been tremendous off the bench," said Kings Coach **Phil Johnson**. "He's been hitting the big shots when the game is on the line. His teammates have a lot of confidence in him in a close game. They will go to him. It's tough to adjust to coming off the bench, but Eddie has made the effort."... Another star player in the league has made an adjustment as well. LA Lakers guard **Magic Johnson** made his way back to form after bruising his left knee prior to the All-Star break. "Earvin has done a great job in getting his conditioning back. He's getting back to

the form he showed at the beginning of the season," said Lakers Coach **Pat Riley**. "We're still missing one part of the puzzle (forward **James Worthy** was sidelined with a pulled groin) but it's almost back together. Earvin's explosiveness is back and our running game is back with it."

LA Clippers assistant coach **Don Casey** has instituted a new rebounding effort award for Clipper forwards and centers. The club's statistical crew will chart the number of shots the player is in the game for and determine the number of rebounds a player grabs, makes an effort to grab or actually ignores. Winners will be recognized each Clipper homestand... Seattle guard **Gerald Henderson** says the Boston Celtics are no different today than the day he was traded. "Nothing has changed," said Henderson. "Boston is Boston and Bird is Bird."... Atlanta Coach **Mike Fratello** on winning road games: "If you look around the league, most teams have trouble on the road. Only the veteran teams seem to win on the road. The Lakers, Boston, Milwaukee and Philly are the only teams winning on the road. Houston is a great team -- at least I think so -- and look at the trouble they have on the road."... For the record, the NBA pre-draft instructional camp will be held May 28-31 at the University of Illinois-Chicago Circle... Speaking of Chicago, Bulls' rookie forward **Charles Oakley** has been playing the best basketball of his young but promising career. Oakley, a product of Virginia Union, was recently inserted into the Bulls' starting lineup when injuries sidelined forward **Orlando Woolridge** and center **Jawaan Oldham**. "He has the capability to be one of the best power forwards in this league," said New Jersey Nets assistant coach **Paul Silas** of Oakley. "He has all the physical tools. Once the mental part of this game catches up, he could be devastating." Many observers feel Oakley's game mirrors that of Silas. "I think I got up quicker on my second jump," said Silas of the comparison, "but he's more explosive and can jump higher. He has more ability than I had. I like the way he works."... Another rookie, **Gerald Wilkins** of New York, is making a name for himself -- but can't understand when people mix that name up with that of his older brother. "Some people call me **Dominique** and that really bothers me," admitted Gerald. "I mean, I'm used to living in his shadow and I'm getting used to playing in **Patrick's** (Ewing) shadow. I really don't mind being in the shadow. But I don't like it when people call me **Dominique**. I don't like it at all!"



Roundball Spoken Here



Larry Bird



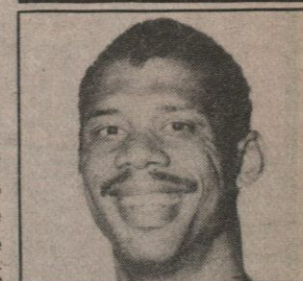
Jerry Sichting

Larry Bird, Asked if he'd fit in with the Lakers, or if Magic Johnson would fit in with the Celtics: "I'm sure I could. I don't think I could do the things Magic does, but I'm sure they'd still win a lot of games. I think Magic would fit in better with Boston than I would with LA. I'm not a great individual defensive player, but I can run my guy into Robert Parish and Kevin McHale all night."

Billy Cunningham, former Sixers' Coach, comments on Bill Walton's defense against Sixer center Moses Malone: "Walton plays Moses better than anybody. The year we won it, and Bill was playing for the Clippers, he drove Moses crazy. Moses couldn't do anything on Bill Walton."



Billy Cunningham



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Jerry Sichting makes this observation about attacking the Lakers' defense: "The Lakers do a lot of doubling down low. They gamble and leave guys open. If you've got good ball movement, and you're careful with your passing, you can exploit that."

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar after the Celtics had defeated the Lakers for the second time this season at The Forum: "It's just another game. There's still a lot of time left in the season. It's an important loss though, because they're the team we're measured against. I'm not embarrassed about the way we played. I think this game is a good indication of how much work we still have left. We're not playing championship caliber basketball."

By The Numbers February 16 - March 2

The Celtics maintained the best record in the league during the past two weeks. The team finished 4-3 on the West Coast swing, including key wins in Portland and Los Angeles. They came off the trip and proceeded to win five games in the east, playing some of their best ball of the season. Highlights included the team defense, which limited the Lakers to 99 points; both times the teams have played this year, the Celts held their championship rivals of the past two seasons below 100.

Larry Bird: Bird will be the forward every future player at his position will be measured by. Six triple-doubles, including 47-point, 14-rebounds, 11-assists game against Trail Blazers. Now has 35 career triple-doubles. Pulled down 18 rebounds in vs. Lakers. 36-points, 12-rebounds, 11-assists in 115-100 win over Warriors. Returned from road trip and registered back-to-back triple-doubles in wins over Indiana and New York. Tallied 35 in 129-109 win over Pistons.

Scott Wedman: Celtics were 15-3 in the games Wedman started this season. Averaged 13.8 ppg as a starter in 235 total minutes. In 6 games in the west, shot 33-75 for .440. 19 points against Pacers; 11-points, 4 assists vs. Lakers. Scored 10 with 9-rebounds, 1-steal, 1-block in 120-100 win over Spurs.

Robert Parish: Parish came home on a shooting streak. 27-points, 15-rebounds, 6-blocks vs. Indiana; 20-points, 11-rebounds vs. NY; 27-points, 10-rebounds, 3-blocks vs. Spurs; 26-points, 7-rebounds in 124-108 win over Clippers. Lit up his old team, the Warriors again in

Oakland with 22 points, 13-rebounds, and 3-blocks.

Dennis Johnson: Had an outstanding west coast trip, averaging 18.7 ppg. Like Bird he rarely plays badly, always contributing in some area. 29-points, 7-assists vs. Trail Blazers; 24-points, 3-assists in 108-101 loss in Phoenix; 23-points, 5-assists, 2-steals vs. LA. Keyed defense with small forward play against Warriors' Short and Nuggets' English. 12-points, 8-assists vs. Pistons.

Danny Ainge: Crashed out of recent slump by caging career-high 27-points in win over Pistons March 2nd. Added 6-assists and 4-rebounds, including 2-offensive rebounds. Registered 9-assists vs. Kings and 12-assists against Trail Blazers. 15-points, 6-assists, and 2-steals in win over Warriors.

Kevin McHale: Returned to the starting lineup against Chicago, March 4. Finally returned to action after missing 9-straight regular season games including entire western tour. Shut out in return in New York; off the bench at home, returned to form: 14-points, 8-rebounds, 3-blocks vs. Spurs; in following two games, shot

20-21 from field with 26 points & 7-rebounds vs. Clippers and 25-points, 5-rebounds vs. Pistons.

Jerry Sichting: Sichting has shot 47-49 from the Free Throw line this year. Shot 31-48 for a clinical. 646 off the bench in eight games. 11-points, 4-assists vs. Lakers; 12-points, 3-assists, 1-steal vs. Warriors; 11-points, 3-assists vs. Pacers; 13-points on 6-9 shooting vs. Spurs.

Bill Walton: Regained and retaining superstar status off bench. 10-points, 7-rebounds, 1-block vs. LA; 18-points, 10-rebounds vs. Suns; 4-points, 9-rebounds vs. Warriors; 6-points, 8-rebounds, 4-blocks, 1-steal vs. Spurs. A key reason the Celtics have improved their intensity on defense this season.

Rick Carlisle: Carlisle was the key reason the C's won the 2nd LA game; career high 10-points with 2-rebounds, 1-assist, 1-steal in 11 minutes. Shooting 31-60 for .517 this year. Shot 2-3 from field against Detroit, 2-2 from field vs. Clippers; 4-points and 1-assist vs. Spurs.

Greg Kite: Entering the void created when Wedman injured back, Kite

played career-high 31 minutes vs. Warriors, keying win with 9-rebounds and key work against L. Smith. Also blocked a shot. 2-points, 2-rebounds in 7-minutes against Spurs back in Boston; was a key factor again against Pistons; led team in rebounding in 3rd quarter on way to 4-point, 5-rebound performance in 9 minutes.

Sam Vincent: Rookie having difficulty playing as Jones is using 4-guard rotation. Played in only 5 of past 10 games. 3-points, 2-rebounds in 4-minutes against Pistons. 2-points in 3 minutes against Spurs. Has shot 42-46 from Free throw line this season, .913.

David Thirdkill: Best minutes came on West Coast trip, where he was a key factor in win over Los Angeles: 3-points, 1-rebound and strong defense in 18 minutes of relief. Had played 16 minutes in previous game against Trail Blazers and scored 6 with 2-rebounds. 4-points in 12 minutes against Warriors. Since McHale's return, minutes have dwindled: 1 vs. Pacers, DNP vs. NY; 3 vs. Spurs; 5 vs. LAC; 4 against Pistons. Jones still regards him as contributor in certain spots.

BOSTON CELTICS STATISTICS

as of March 2, 1986

PLAYER	-FIELD GOALS-										-FREE THROWS-					-REBOUNDS-										PF	DT	STL	TO	BLK	PTS	AVG	HI
	G	GS	MIN	FG	FGA	PCT	3-PT	FG	FGA	PCT	FT	FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT	AST																
BIRD	58	58	2256	552	1157	.477	42	114	.370	320	356	899	143	449	317	125	127	2	21	99	83	1466	25.3	47									
MCMALE	44	39	1590	366	647	.566	0	0	0	222	282	787	110	261	371	125	127	2	21	99	83	954	21.7	34									
PARISH	58	58	1879	386	715	.540	0	0	0	187	258	725	187	344	531	99	156	2	30	147	93	959	16.5	27									
JOHNSON	55	55	1948	341	743	.459	5	30	.170	205	829	48	145	193	299	144	2	79	113	19	857	15.6	30										
AINGE	56	55	1726	251	490	.512	17	51	.80	88	909	32	144	176	316	154	4	80	103	7	599	10.7	27										
WEDMAN	57	18	1058	218	466	.468	11	33	.38	59	644	51	97	148	59	103	0	33	37	18	485	8.5	24										
WALTON	56	0	1074	163	300	.543	0	0	0	89	128	695	99	272	371	103	152	1	31	105	75	415	7.4	19									
SICHTING	58	6	1140	158	284	.556	4	10	.47	49	959	19	59	78	139	87	0	39	61	0	267	6.3	17										
THIRDKILL	33	0	272	39	75	.520	0	1	.32	56	571	21	28	49	9	40	0	5	14	2	110	3.3	20										
VINCENT	41	0	311	35	109	.321	1	3	.42	46	913	6	30	36	59	43	0	13	38	4	113	2.8	9										
CARLISLE	53	0	487	60	126	.476	0	8	.12	19	632	9	35	44	70	55	0	13	28	1	132	2.5	10										
KITE	45	1	275	26	52	.500	0	0	0	5	15	.333	17	49	66	9	49	1	2	19	11	57	1.3	8									
CELTICS	58		14070	2600	5195	.501	80	254	.315	1573	795	749	1921	2670	1682	1260	12	492	982	353	6531	112.6	137										
OPPONENTS	58		14070	2436	5245	.464	48	192	.250	1498	749	744	1676	2420	1375	1405	10	513	942	244	6042	104.2	124										

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9		10	DALLAS MAVERICKS 8:00 WRKO RADIO WLVN-TV56	11	HOUSTON ROCKETS 8:30 WRKO RADIO WLVN-TV56	12		13	SAN ANTONIO SPURS 8:30 WRKO RADIO WLVN-TV56	14	Atlanta Hawks 7:30 WRKO RADIO WLVN-TV56
16	PHILADELPHIA 76ers 1:00 WRKO RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	17		18	CLEVELAND CAVALIERS 7:30 WRKO RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	19	INDIANA PACERS 7:30 WRKO RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	20		21	CHICAGO BULLS 7:30 WRKO RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL
23		24	HOUSTON ROCKETS 8:00 WRKO RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	25		26	MILWAUKEE BUCKS 7:30 WRKO RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL	27		28	WASHINGTON BULLETS 7:30 WRKO RADIO SPORTS CHANNEL
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- 3 Which Celtic slept on a bench in the Boston Commons after winning the 1957 NBA Championship?
- 4 In 1980 two Celtics retired from basketball - a center and a guard. The center was Dave Cowens. Who was the guard?
- 5 Who said "I could take 4 guys off the street in Petersburg (Virginia) and beat them [the Celtics]?"
- 6 Who said "I'm going to look awfully silly... if he stuffs the ball and me through the hoop?"

- 1 Les Smith
- 2 Light a cigar
- 3 Dave Cowens
- 4 Pete Maravich
- 5 Moses Malone
- 6 Bill Russell about Wilt Chamberlain

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Basketball Times — College Insight

By Larry Donald

I don't know about you, but for me talk of "Super Sunday" means three back-to-back college basketball games like North Carolina-North Carolina State, Georgetown - Syracuse and Purdue - Indiana. All were with that special tournament level intensity and did a nice job setting the table for what's to come in weeks ahead... What did we learn? That North Carolina State is a dangerous team, one which is beginning to put its great athletic ability into basketball synch. That Purdue, though still lacking in size, is starting to mature and, depending on what sort of draw it gets in NCAA play, could be in Dallas. That Syracuse would probably win the national championship if every game were played in the Carrier Dome. That North Carolina is not invincible, although I doubt there were many who felt that way about the Tar Heels in the first place. That Georgetown really isn't a threat to make the Final Four and that Indiana must have a great scoring night from **Steve Alford** if it is to win...

It is an indictment of the various, college basketball polls that Bradley entered its last week of regular-season play ranked outside the top ten. Have voters been comatized by the incredible publicity mills in the ACC, Big East and Big Ten? Pollsters should ask themselves just one question in regard to Bradley: Granting that this is not a vintage year for the Missouri Valley Conference, how many of the top ten teams could have just one loss if they played the Braves' schedule. Interesting though isn't it?... Mentioning Bradley, I'd like to go on record saying that the Braves' **Jim Les** and Michigan State's **Scott Skiles** are more meaningful to their respective teams than any other players in the country...

Two men who won't be named as Pittsburgh's new basketball coach are **Larry Brown** of Kansas and **George Karl** of the Cleveland Cavaliers. Both declined the job... The Man who will be named at Florida State apparently is **Murray Arnold**, ex-coach at Tennessee Chattanooga and currently an assistant with the Chicago Bulls... Both Kansas State and Mississippi State face the prospect of gambling with a young assistant coach to fill the vacancies at their schools. Established coaches are shying away from both jobs simply because it's difficult to win in the remoteness of Manhattan and Starkville. **George Felton**, a **Bobby Cremins** assistant at George Tech and a man credited with a great deal of the Yellow Jackets' recruiting success, will be given a long look at K. State...

Rumors abound at North Carolina State these days that sophomore

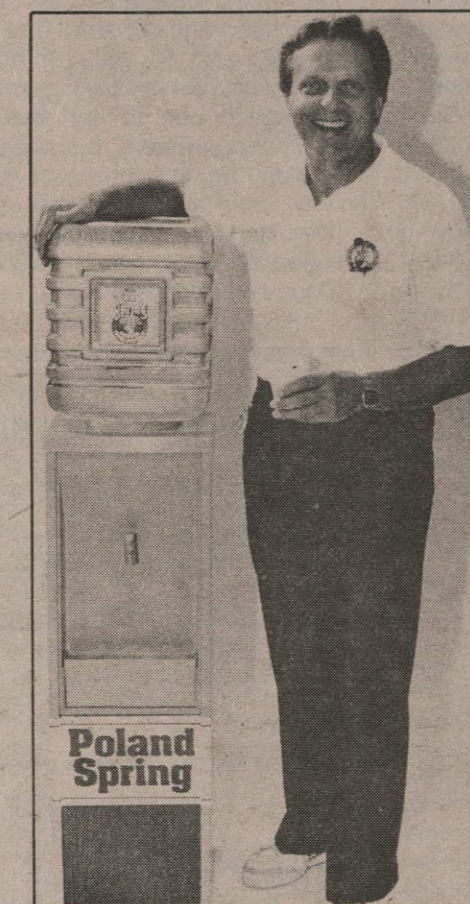
pivot **Chris Washburn** is tinkering with the notion of turning pro. NBA scouts love the way he runs the floor and undoubtedly he'd be a high draft choice because so many established clubs are among the first seven choosers which means they could wait for him to develop. Washburn

says no, but State coach **Jimmy Valvano** says once the season is completed all interested parties should meet and discuss the merits of such a move... If Washburn decides to stay (which probably would be the wise choice in terms of his development as a player) pencil in

North Carolina State, Purdue and Arizona as prime contenders for next year's pre-season number one... I assume you are sophisticated enough about college basketball to understand North Carolina's inclusion in that group of potential No. 1's is an automatic...

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Celtics Classics

Cowens Retires in 1980

Dave Proved Quickness as Important as Size

Dave Cowens was most decidedly an iconoclast off the court. And he was pretty different on the court, too.

When Cowens joined the Celtics in 1970, he was something the NBA had never seen before. He was only 6-8 -- undersized for a center -- but could run the floor better than most guards and shoot from the outside like few players in the league -- at any size.

Cowens also played the game with a fervor that made the average madman seem docile. Diving for loose balls and inexorable defense were both Cowens trademarks. Once Cowens came to Beantown, the Celtics were back in the NBA's elite class.

"Cowens was exactly what we needed, the key missing part," former Celtics Coach Tom Heinson said. "The first time I saw Dave in training camp, I thought he was a 6-8 Havlicek. All I had to do was wind him up."

Said Red Auerbach: "Cowens scared me the first time I scouted him. He was so good I kept hoping he'd make a mistake. There were some scouts from other teams there, and I figured if they saw the same potential that I did, we were dead."

Apparently, they didn't. Detroit opened the draft by picking Bob Lanier out of St. Bonaventure, San Diego took Rudy Tomjanovich from Michigan and Atlanta tabbed LSU's Pete Maravich. That left Cowens to the Celtics, who were more than happy to scoop him up.

"(Bill) Russell revolutionized the game during my day and now I could see that David was going to do the same thing in his day," Heinson said. "There are two factors in playing center-- size and quickness. Dave was going to prove quickness would be just as important as size. But to do that, he had to play the game with greater intensity than any other center."

"He had to make every game a test of stamina. Other centers were forced to play his style and just couldn't do it. They stayed with him in the first quarter. In the second quarter they fell a step behind. By the third quarter it was obvious they couldn't take the pace. And by the final period, they were completely unable to play their own style."

Cowens indulged in his uniquely break-neck style of play for 10 years, leading the Celtics to a pair of NBA championships. He was even player-



Dave, now

coach for the final 68 games of the 1978-79 season.

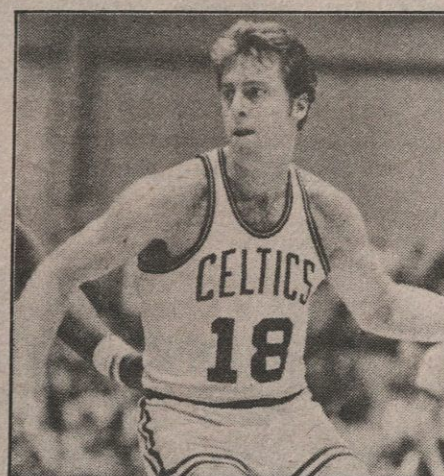
However, Cowens' career came to an abrupt end prior to the start of the 1980-81 season, when he announced he was retiring. And rather than going through the usual fanfare, Cowens simply prepared a text as a farewell to Boston fans. In it, he cited injuries as a major force in his decision to walk away from the NBA.

"Enter here the fact that I have been playing the game of basketball for 16 years on two feet which can best be described by the observations that a team of foot and bone specialists made a couple of year ago," Cowens wrote. "They were amazed that I had been able to play up to that point without any radical, serious injuries, at which time I pointed out that I had sprained my ankles at least 30 times over the duration of my career, broken both legs and fractured a foot."

"Now, I am not explaining this for you to extend sympathy to me, or use it as a crutch, but only to explain that there is something fundamentally wrong with my feet and ankles that would make me more susceptible to injury. The primary reason that I will not remain on the active roster of the Celtics or any other professional ball-club is the fact I have a highly weakened and worn-out set of feet and ankles..."

Despite his superstar status, Cowens had the Larry Bird-type of working class mentality. He'd never think of shortchanging the fans, the team or his teammates by playing at a substandard level. And since Cowens felt he wasn't the player he had been, he decided to get out.

"I would feel guilty about the amount of money I would earn under these conditions if I thought I could play even as well as I did last year."



Dave, then

But I can't. I have had an extraordinary living from basketball and feel that the Celtics and Dave Cowens have been equally fair to one another over the past 10 years. In addition, I don't want preferential treatment from the coach due to my status as a seasoned veteran, because then I wouldn't be able to expect maximum effort from my teammates. Fairness goes hand in hand with dedication, especially when one is involved in a group participation sport.

"I don't want anyone to suspect

that I was only going through the motions as a player. My whole reputation has been one of giving maximum effort, and I want to be remembered as such a player. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not perfect. I've dogged it in practices, performed extremely poorly in games and done my share of complaining. But I've always had the desire to work hard and do my part, more, if necessary. I think every one of my teammates enjoyed playing ball with me."

And with that, this redhead's career ended.

"So after all this deliberation and soul-searching over the past five months, and taking into consideration the positive and negative factors such as the exceptional talent the Celtics have in their front line, the camaraderie among the players, the rigors of travelling, etc., I have decided to retire."

"I have enjoyed performing for you over the past 10 years while hopefully engraving myself into the history of the Celtics organization."

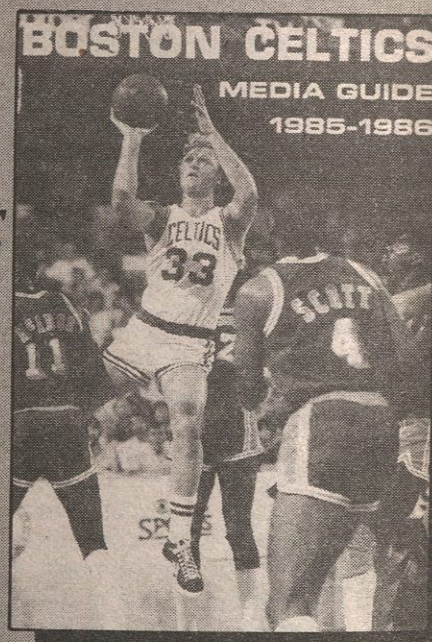
To be sure, Cowens will never be forgotten by anyone who ever saw him play.

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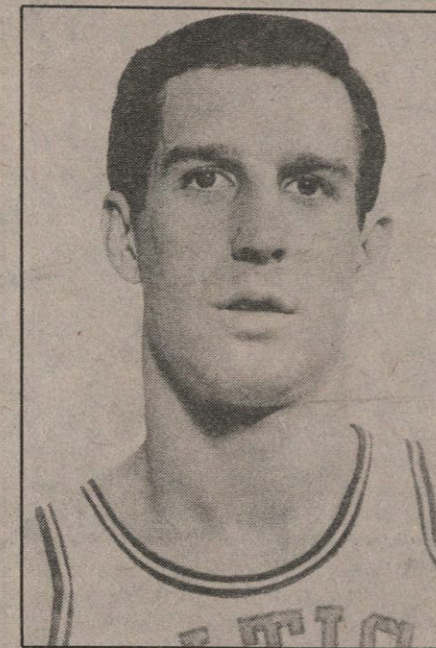


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Past and Present

Celtics Greats

Larry Siegfried



Larry wants to coach again.

Siegfried wouldn't mind being his successor.

"They know I'm interested," says Siegfried, who refuses to do any heavy lobbying for the job.

Then again, concerning his preference for a college or pro slot, Siegfried says, "Beggars can't be choosers. I don't have a preference. I consider myself a teacher. What weaknesses I had as a player I had to make up for by playing smart. I know the game."

Siegfried is also fully aware that coaches never really disappear from the scene they just move from team to team. That is true at NBA level as well as at college. For example, Miller could probably wind up somewhere else tomorrow if he looked hard enough.

"It's a fraternity," Siegfried says. "When you're in, you die in. It has nothing to do with qualifications, when you're in, you're in, when you're out, you're out."

Although he wants to get back in to the club, Siegfried wants no part of that mentality.

"I just want to get it done," he says. "If I can't get it done, I'm leaving. I'm not looking for a free ride. I don't want to be a parasite just hanging around. I'm sure someone in the NBA could use me."

The Celtics certainly found Siegfried useful, as he was a member of five NBA championship teams. Playing for Boston left an indelible impression on Siegfried.

"It was a great experience," Siegfried says. "It left a tremendous mark on my life--I use it now when I

As a player, Larry Siegfried could've been best described as a battler and a scrapper. He was a tough-nosed type who may've come up a little short when it came to talent, but he backed down to no one and gave it 400 percent every second he was on the floor.

And as it turns out, Siegfried has the very same personality off the court. Then and now. Being away from the NBA more than a decade hasn't mellowed the Ohio native at all.

The former Celtics guard, who played with Boston from 1963-64 to 1969-70, is one of the most energetic and rambunctious people you'll ever meet. He has definite opinions on everything, and isn't afraid to express them.

For example, Siegfried is currently Executive Director of Associate Builders and Contractors, a Columbus, Ohio-based firm which provides a variety of assistance to non-union contractors. Siegfried who's had the job two years, was asked if this line of work would make him and his firm unpopular with unions.

"I couldn't care less about unions," Siegfried says. "I don't worry about 'em. I'm not anti-union--I think they serve a purpose-- but I don't need someone to help me get paid."

When asked how things were going in his line of work, Siegfried was just a candid.

"I had to have a job," he says. "I've tried to get back into basketball, because my heart's still in coaching. I haven't been able to break the door down. That's probably my greatest frustration."

Siegfried was a coach at one time. After his playing career ended with the Atlanta Hawks following the 1971-72 season, he went to his alma mater, Ohio State, as an assistant coach. He spent a year there, before moving on to the Houston Rockets, where he was an aide to Johnny Egan for three campaigns. Then, he quit.

"I had just gotten married my last year as a player," Siegfried says, "and I went back to doing a lot of travelling. My last few years (as a player) I was moving around so much. It was wild. I had to get out for a while. I got out and couldn't get back in."

"I miss not being in it. The next time around, I'll be better than the first time around."

Siegfried would like a job at either the professional or college level. High school is out, "because you can't live on that (salary)," he says.

It so happens that Eldon Miller is out as Ohio State Coach, and

speaks. I feel grateful that I was able to play for the Celtics. I'm only sorry that I wasn't a better listener, as I am today. Playing for the Celtics was a positive mark on my life. It was a super experience."

Siegfried was no superstar, but he was one of those vintage Red Auerbach role players.

"I played with guys who understand what team concept is all about Siegfried says. "I feel sorry for people who won't experience that camaraderie. I consider myself a winner. Red Auerbach has always had a knack for being able to find bodies and talents that were winners, probably because he was a winner himself. Look at all the guys I played with--they were winners."

"It just happened that I didn't have the talent like some of the great

ones. You don't have to be number-one to be a winner. Somebody has to get the ball to them somebody has to rebound, somebody has to play defense."

"When I first joined the Celtics, I was 13th man on a 12-man roster. Then I became a starter on a World Championship club."

Siegfried wound up with the San Diego Rockets in 1970, which started the demise of his NBA career.

"San Diego was no problem, but they sold the club (and moved to Houston)," Siegfried says. "It went downhill--it was a mess. I went to Atlanta, and that was a worse mess. Then I said, 'To hell with it. I've had enough.' I wouldn't play in those situations for anything."

What Siegfried wants is a situation where he can be a coach somewhere. And when that happens, don't expect him to change. He'll still be his fiery self.

"That's me," Siegfried says.

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